

**EXCLUSIVE THIS WEEK**

**PUNCIE, ROYALTY AND RELIGION**

MY EARLY LIFE, PAGE 19

## BEST FOR BOOKS

Linda Colley on The Story of Britain  
PLUS: Helen Dunmore on David Malouf;  
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## IN THE HEAT OF THE SOUTH

Sandra Bullock sizzles in a Dixie courtroom drama  
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## BEST FOR JOBS

Director ..... 150K  
Ombudsman ..... 100K  
Executive ..... 80K  
Manager ..... 70K

TUC and post workers snub Blair

# Unions deal double blow to Labour

By Philip Bassett and Jill Sherman

RELATIONS between Labour and the unions reached a new low yesterday when Tony Blair suffered a double rebuff from trade union leaders — and he faces a third today.

The TUC defied Mr Blair in voting for a national minimum wage of £4.26 an hour, when he had asked it not to set a specific rate. Postal workers' leaders also rejected his call for a ballot on a new pay offer, saying they would go ahead with two more 24-hour strikes regardless.

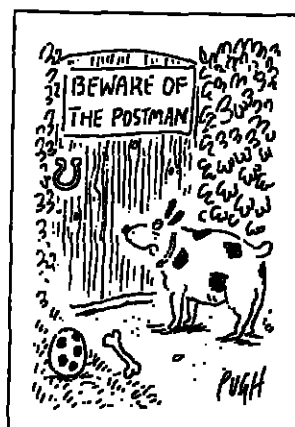
And the TUC is likely to deal another blow today with a demand for more workers' rights than the Labour leader is prepared to concede.

Last night Mr Blair made clear that he would disregard the call for a £4.26 rate and sought to distance Labour from the TUC, saying they were separate bodies with separate constitutions and if they disagreed, "so be it".

On the overwhelming vote on setting the minimum wage, he said: "The trade unions have put their case. It is their right to do so. But in the end, a Labour Government will decide in the interests of the whole country."

The Labour leadership has already decided that the rate would be decided by a low pay commission to which unions could submit bids. The commission would be set up after the general election and David Blunkett, the party's employment spokesman, said last night that both the TUC and the CBI would sit on it.

While the motion calling for



a rate of £4.26 — proposed by Unison's Rodney Bickerstaffe and backed by Arthur Scargill's miners — won huge support, the conference also carried a separate resolution and statement from the TUC general council accepting that the rate would be set by a Labour Government in consultation with the unions and employers. TUC leaders are expected largely to ignore the £4.26 motion and to work out their bid after the election.

The Conservatives repeated their warning, however, that whatever figure was set would increase unemployment and "hurt the people it was meant to help". John Major said that a rate of between £3.70 and £4.26 would cost a million jobs, adding: "I think it will be very damaging for people just getting onto the employment ladder and very damaging for people in part-time and casual work. What in practice it will do is not so much help those

people, but cost a very large number of jobs and leave them unemployed."

Mr Blair also found himself at odds with the unions over the postal dispute yesterday when he called for a fresh ballot on the Royal Mail's latest offer. But Alan Johnson of the Communication Workers' Union said that such a ballot would be a waste of time and money, and two more one-day strikes would go ahead later this month.

Labour and the unions have already clashed this week over the party's plan to deal with — and avoid — strikes, and further conflict is likely today when the TUC sets out its shopping list for new employment laws. They will press for new rights for all workers, including part-timers, from their first day at work and recognised negotiating powers for unions where an unspecified number of employees want them.

The late John Smith gave a commitment to rights for workers from day one, but the new Labour leadership is trying to abandon that. Mr Blair has signalled that the two-year period before full rights are established will be shortened, but he has not said whether the new qualifying period would be a year or six months.

On union recognition, Labour says collective bargaining should go ahead only where a majority of workers want it.

Scargill attack, page 8  
Leading article, page 21  
Letters, page 21



Wu Hui Hua and Shih Jong Rong, visitors to London, at the Mysteries of Ancient China exhibition yesterday

## US ready to make 'massive' attack on Iraq

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States was preparing "massive" retaliatory action against President Saddam Hussein last night after an Iraqi missile launcher fired on two American F16 fighters patrolling the no-fly zone over the region.

In a series of moves indicating a new and tougher American strategy, more warplanes were moved closer to the Gulf yesterday. The United States sent two B52 bombers from their base in Guam to the British territory of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, and officials were considering deploying a second aircraft carrier in the area.

The Pentagon said it was also planning to scramble a squadron of F117 Stealth fighters to take up position in the region since the Iraqi leader had shown blatant disregard for both the no-fly zone and warnings from Washington not to repair air defence systems damaged by American missile attacks last week.

Britain is expecting a "firm response" from the United States and officials on both sides have already been in close consultation. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, who is on holiday in Italy, is being kept informed.

Any strike is likely to be made by American aircraft based in Diego Garcia, but no British forces are expected to take part.

Although no new fighting has been reported in northern Iraq, Britain is worried that many Iraqi security forces have established a foothold in the Kurdish regions. "This is a source of real concern as a major objective has been to stem the degree of control by Saddam Hussein in northern Iraq," an official said.

British deal, page 13  
Leading article, page 21

## Cull cows or export ban stays, EU says

By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner

BRITAIN was given a blunt warning by Brussels yesterday that it would refuse to lift the export ban on British beef if the selective cull of 125,000 cattle was not carried through.

With ministers meeting today to review the programme in the light of fresh scientific research and growing fears that it will not be passed by the Commons, the European Commission insisted that the cull was an essential part of a gradual removal of the ban.

Conservative MPs welcomed yesterday's disclosure that the Government is to consider cutting, shelving or even abandoning the cull of cattle thought to be most at risk of developing BSE. They

supported the view of Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, that the slaughter programme should not proceed if there is no likelihood of the export ban being lifted. Ministers and MPs share Mr Hogg's pessimism that the ban will not be lifted imminently and there are some fears that it will be in place for years until BSE has been eradicated.

But Gerard Kiely, spokesman for the Agriculture Commission, Franz Fischler, told BBC Radio that if the scheme was not introduced the European countries would say that solidarity is only working one way and they will refuse to lift the ban. The selective slaughter plan was an integral part of the Florence agreement. The step-by-step approach to the lifting of the ban was

Continued on page 2, col 4

## Unemployment down again

Unemployment fell in August to its lowest level since March 1991. The seasonally adjusted total of those out of work and claiming benefit was down 15,600 to 2,110,400, compared with a fall of 24,300 in July, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The Government celebrated the fall but Labour said the fall was "bogus" when compared with the increase in the number of people in work.

## Blame over boy

Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, said the case of Matthew Wilson, the ten-year-old Nottinghamshire schoolboy, had been badly handled by all involved and he had been turned into a "notorious hero".

She deplored the strike vote by teachers at Manton Junior School, Worksop, who claimed that he was too unruly to teach, but refused to intervene.

## Chinese find mausoleum of First Emperor intact

By Dalia Albergé, Arts Correspondent

CHINESE archaeologists have discovered that the First Emperor's mausoleum, built over decades by 700,000 slaves, remains intact and was neither violated nor ransacked as ancient writings from around 130 BC had led scholars to believe.

It means that spectacular riches known to have been buried with him in 210 BC and guarded by self-firing crossbows activated by tripwires appear to have survived untouched for 2,000 years in central China.

Frustratingly, the Chinese are unlikely to open the underground tomb for several decades because they are so superstitious about the wrath of ancient spirits. Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi, who built the first Great Wall of China, was one of the most ruthless



This bizarre bronze beast may have been part of a ceremonial drum stand. Arts, page 35

with sponsorship from The Times. Sir Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, officially opened the exhibition last night and thanked The Times for its help.

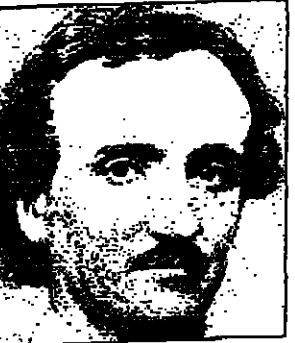
Graham Greene, chairman of the British Museum Trustees, described the exhibition as "a landmark event in the process of deepening contacts and greater understanding between China and Great Britain". He added: "Exhibitions like Mysteries of Ancient China seriously contribute to forging new interest, general debate and profound scholarly inquiry."

The official reason given by the Chinese for not opening the tomb is that technology is not sufficiently advanced to save silks and other delicate materials from disintegrating.

Continued on page 2, col 1

## Rabies theory makes Poe's death stranger than fiction

By Tom Rhodes



Poe: heavy drinker

ALMOST 147 years after Edgar Allan Poe was found sprawled outside a tavern in Baltimore, theories about the American author's death have become a macabre mirror of his own art.

Poe was semiconscious when discovered in the Maryland city on October 3, 1849. It has been assumed ever since that his death four days later was the result of alcoholic poisoning.

But new research by a doctor at the University of Maryland suggests that Poe, whose often bizarre life ended at 39,

died of rabies. Dr Michael Benitez claims that the symptoms of his final illness coincide with those of a rabies victim.

Poe suffered periods of confusion tinged with acute alertness, as well as an apparent attack of hydrophobia. A rabies victim, said Dr Benitez, could expect to survive for four days after its onset. "There was no autopsy, so no one can say conclusively that Poe died of rabies. But accounts of his condition in the hospital point to the possibility," Dr Benitez said.

Poe was certified to have died of "congestion of the brain". Rufus Griswold, his literary executor, claimed

he had been on a drinking binge, and on that obituary rests the basis for a variety of myths about Poe's death.

Although Poe was known to have been a heavy drinker and consumed opiates, medical records indicate he had avoided alcohol for six months before his death. Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe house in Baltimore, said there were at least 22 explanations for his death, including syphilis. "But the work by Dr Benitez represents the first time that anyone has approached Poe's death in a scientific manner." It is a theory worthy of the *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque*.

Brewed under the influence  
(of our great grandfather)



BREWED BY THE CHARLES WELLS FAMILY  
BREWERY BEDFORDSHIRE, EST. 1876

The Times on the Internet  
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Shephard rejects banks' bids to take over majority of business and abandons competition

## Second U-turn on plan for student loans

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS performed their second U-turn in a year over student loans yesterday, rejecting bids from two high-street banks to take over the majority of the business and abandoning plans for competition between lenders.

Less than five months after legislation to pave the way for a "two-track" loans system received Royal Assent, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced that the new machinery would not be used. Instead, she is to contract-out the work of the Student

Loans Company and sell much of its £2 billion debt to a private company.

The Government wanted one or more financial institutions to compete with the Treasury-backed loans company. But the scheme was postponed by a year almost as soon as MPs began to debate the enabling Bill, leaving a £100 million shortfall in public-spending plans.

Civil servants have been negotiating with Barclays and Clydesdale banks, as well as the National Home Loans Corporation, to offer loans. But Mrs Shephard said yesterday that it had not proved possible to strike a deal at an acceptable price. "There would have

been short-term savings," she said, "but because of a combination of circumstances, the costs are higher than I would wish to justify to the taxpayer. That is no criticism of the lenders."

Mrs Shephard said she remained determined to privatise student loans before the 1997-98 academic year. "Government should not be in the banking business."

Students would be offered exactly the same terms as at present, but the Glasgow-based company would no longer administer the scheme. The effect would be to remove some of the growing burden of student debt from the public purse. Barclays,

which has been working on its bid for nearly a year, said it was disappointed by the Government's decision. "We believe that our proposal would have brought benefit to students in terms of quicker turn-round time for loans and improved access through our more than 2,000 branches."

The spokesman added: "Given the improved level of service we were planning to give to student customers and the risk we would have had to take on, we believe our proposal was competitive."

Labour said the proposals had been doomed to failure. Bryan Davies, the higher education

spokesman, said: "This is a complete collapse of the Government's plans for student loans. They rushed legislation through Parliament but failed to sell their original scheme to the private sector, which is well aware of the strength of student opposition to it."

University vice-chancellors expressed disappointment at the decision. They had hoped that a two-track system might eventually release money to restore cuts in higher-education budgets.

Douglas Trainer, the president of the National Union of Students, said it had always been against the Government's proposals for priva-

vised loans. "We said the new loans scheme was unnecessary, unworkable and unachievable, and we've been proved right."

Mr Trainer demanded an early commitment from the Government that any money raised will go to student support and higher-education funding. "It is about time the Government faced up to the responsibility of providing proper financial support to students and stopped tinkering with the ridiculous system of student loans that has been flawed and troublesome since its introduction six years ago."

Degree vacancies, pages 17, 30

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Church not soft on marriage, says Hope

The Church of England has not "gone soft" on marriage or abandoned it, the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, said yesterday. He told the Mothers' Union at its annual meeting in Derby that the Church had not abandoned "either the ideal or the centrality of the biblically based teaching on marriage and family life."

But thousands of couples who married in the Church of England each year were ill-prepared for the challenges ahead, and marriage preparation was of vital importance, he said. "Many people who marry young are particularly liable to enter upon it with somewhat naive conceptions of the implications of what they are undertaking."

Runcie biography, page 19

### Pop goes poster

Sir Cliff Richard has vetoed a poster designed by the Churches Advertising Network to attract young people to the Church this Christmas. The poster would have carried his picture with the slogan: "Hard luck Cliff, Jesus is Number One this Christmas."

### Sex charge priest

Brendan Smyth, 68, the priest jailed in Northern Ireland for molesting children in Belfast and whose extradition from the Republic led to the fall of Albert Reynolds' government, is to face 60 child sex abuse charges in Dublin, his solicitor said yesterday.

### Villainous role

Christopher Lee, 74, the legendary horror actor, is spearheading the BBC's £184 million drama schedule for next year. He will play the villain in an adaptation of Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*. Eight more episodes of *Ballykissangel* are commissioned.

### Embryo research

In an article for today's *Times*, Lord Winston, the in-vitro fertilisation pioneer, calls for embryos to be screened for carrying cancer-causing genes so that those affected may be destroyed.

No designer babies, page 20

### Cancer inquiry

An inquiry has begun into claims linking a cluster of rare throat cancers and red dust blown from Consett steelworks, which are now closed. Health officials in Co Durham will examine 30 cases, of which seven people are alive.

### Officer jailed

The treasurer of Harrogate Police Social Club has been jailed for 15 months for taking £38,000 from its account for personal use. PC Barry Saunders, 46, treated the club a personal bank account. York Crown Court was told.

### Bowie on the Net

David Bowie has released his latest single exclusively on the Internet. *Telling Lies* will not be sold in shops. Fans will be able to retrieve three compact-disc quality versions of the song only from his Internet site: [www.davidbowie.com](http://www.davidbowie.com)

### Fantasy wedding

Two "theme-park fanatics" yesterday became the first to marry at a themed indoor resort. Elaine Johnson, 33, and Daniel Heighon, 22, wed at the Magical World of Fantasy Island at Ingoldmells, Lincolnshire.

## Bruton makes IRA peace plea in US speech

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN BRUTON, the Irish Prime Minister, used a speech to the US Congress yesterday to appeal for a permanent IRA ceasefire and rapid progress towards discussion of the major issues of disagreement in the all-party peace talks.

However, Irish officials in Washington dismissed reports that Mr Bruton had reason to believe the IRA was close to resuming its ceasefire, saying comments he had made to journalists on Tuesday had been misunderstood. The Prime Minister drew loud applause from America's senators and congressmen when he demanded IRA violence "stop for good".

He added: "True negotiations can only take place in an atmosphere of genuine peace. The all-party talks for which we have worked so hard have been delivered. We must have everybody there at those talks now, genuinely willing and

able to negotiate, and that can only happen when everyone has been convinced that violence will never be used again to intimidate opponents or control supporters — never again. That means a cessation of violence by the IRA that will hold in all circumstances."

Mr Bruton said hopes for peace in Northern Ireland were still alive, but if they were to be realised the all-party peace talks "must now move beyond procedure and soon discuss really substantive issues of disagreement. This must happen quickly."

It emerged yesterday that Mary Robinson, the Irish President, is likely to shake hands with Gerry Adams in west Belfast today in her first encounter with the Sinn Féin president since the IRA ended its ceasefire. Mr Adams will be present when Mrs Robinson opens a youth development project.

## Loyalists allowed to stay in Stormont talks

LONDON and Dublin ruled yesterday that the two fringe loyalist parties could remain at the Stormont talks despite their refusal to condemn death threats against Billy Wright and Alex Kerr by Protestant paramilitaries.

In a joint statement the two Governments said that the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Democratic Party, the political wings respectively of the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association, had not

dishonoured the Mitchell principles of non-violence.

In a four-page statement the two Governments conceded that the loyalists had not condemned the threats by the Combined Loyalist Military Command. However, they highlighted statements from the two parties distancing themselves from the threats. The ruling was condemned by the Democratic Unionists, who said that the decision would pave the way for Sinn Féin to join the talks.



Counter culture: Tony Blair serves a McDonald's milk shake in Coventry business park. John Major climbs into a Jaguar XK8 sports car in Bristol, and Norma Major holds up her book at printers in Somerset



## Leaders are neck and neck for a rest

By JAMES LANDALE

EARLY signs of election battle fatigue emerged yesterday with both John Major and Tony Blair looking in need of a good rest.

The Prime Minister, completing his two-week "Life's Better" tour with a visit to the West Country, is apparently suffering from a strained neck after spending so much time on the road. Reports that he was on painkillers were denied last night.

The Labour leader was clearly in such need of a quiet night after visits to Blackpool and a JCB mechanical digger factory in Staffordshire that he popped into a Blockbuster video store in Coventry to buy a copy of Walt Disney's *101 Dalmatians*. Mr Blair even appears to have lost his appetite for good food. Yesterday he visited a McDonald's fast-food restaurant.

Despite the prospect of many more months campaigning before the election, both Mr Major and Mr Blair have taken an opportunity to tour key marginal constituencies. The Majors were besieged by hundreds of shoppers and tourists at Weston-super-Mare. Clearly encouraged by the response, Mr Major told reporters: "You have seen the change in atmosphere. It's apparent up and down the country. It takes a while before it reflects among the fashionable opinion-formers."

Norma Major took time out to visit a company in Frome, Somerset, which is printing her new book on Chequers.

Leading article and Letters, page 21

## Chinese fears over tomb

Continued from page 1

on contact with 1990s air. Martin Palmer, a historian featured in the film, notes that the Chinese believe they are being watched by their ancestors: "If things go wrong in your life, that's because the ancestors are not pleased. They're essentially malignant. You disturb them, they'll disturb you. You upset them, they'll make your life hell on earth."

Christopher Mann, the producer and director of the film, entitled *The Immortal Emperor*, explained that the programme offers a virtual reality recreation of what the tomb looks like, based on research by scholars worldwide. Ancient writings tell us that dozens of imperial wives, for

example, were ritually strangled and buried there with the emperor, along with stunning treasures amassed by one of the richest men who ever lived.

The British Museum exhibition features a jade burial suit, 2,498 plaques sewn together with gold thread, which could well resemble the death suit of the First Emperor.

The programme shows how his tomb was sealed with self-closing doors and buried under several million tons of earth. It also notes how, ironically, he never intended to inhabit his mausoleum as he never expected to die. He used his extraordinary wealth and power to search for the elixir of everlasting life. In doing so, said Mr Mann, he

probably caused his own death, at the age of 47. He swallowed what he thought were life-enhancing minerals such as powdered jade and mercury salts; however, he was in fact consuming poisonous substances which are today known to induce dementia.

The exhibition, which will run until January 5, includes about 200 treasures in jade, bronze and gold that are older and more remarkable than anything previously displayed outside China. The exhibits span more than 4,000 years, beginning around 4500 BC, and include fantasy creatures from sacrificial pits. Some of them will be featured in the film, to be screened on BBC2 on Sunday at 7.40pm.

## Beef cull warning

Continued from page 1

dependent on the selective slaughter plan, he said.

As fears grew of a renewed confrontation with the EU on the issue, Mr Major said: "We are going to look at policy on beef because... we have more scientific evidence on material transmission and... we have recent evidence from scientists of the success in reducing the incidence of BSE as a result of the decisions we took in 1988 and 1989."

The slaughter plan has been called into question by an Oxford University study showing that mad cow disease is declining and could disappear altogether by 2001 without the need to slaughter so many cows. But officials in Brussels point out that the

report sets out a range of options and the likely results — including an even higher cull than the one agreed between Mr Major and his EU partners in return for ending Britain's non-cooperation policy in Europe.

John Redwood, the former Cabinet minister, said he hoped the Government would be able to negotiate a better deal — killing fewer cows, while lifting the export ban. "There is no point in killing cows that we think should not be killed unless that action gets the beef ban lifted," he said on Radio 4's *The World at One* programme. "If there is no prospect of the ban being lifted, the best we can do is to look after our own farmers and domestic market."

## Stationery office sold for £54m

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

MINISTERS have accepted a reduced price for the sale of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, apparently because of difficulties facing the business. A £54 million deal was announced yesterday, though unofficial estimates had been between £100 million to £130 million.

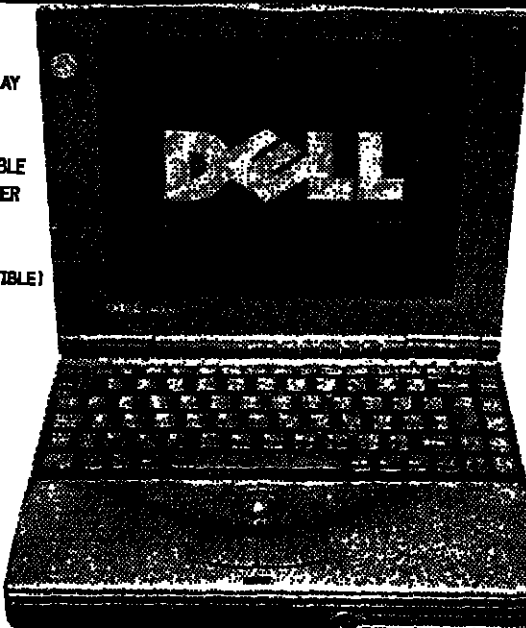
The new owner is the National Publishing Group, a consortium led by Electra Fleming and headed by Rupert Pennington-Rea, former deputy governor of the Bank of England. About 500 staff are expected to lose their jobs. Roger Freeman, Chancellor

of the Duchy of Lancaster, accepted last night that the final figure was less than expected, but said that he was satisfied. "These are good terms as I see the business at present."

The Government will also be expected to create a pension fund for civil servants whose employment will be transferred to the new owner. Union sources believe this could cost as much as £70 million. Derek Foster, Labour's spokesman on civil service matters, accused the Government of selling the office at "a knockdown price".

## Budget problem? Business solution.

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'I thought: How dare you? I grabbed the gun and said: Stop it, young man'

## Beautician fought off armed mugger on Tube train

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BEAUTICIAN described yesterday how she fought off a teenage mugger who pulled a gun on her and demanded money as she travelled alone in a carriage on the London Underground.

Shanaz Mughal, 42, said she thought she was "finished" when Mowled Hussein, 16, brandished the weapon and tried to snatch her handbag. But anger overcame her fear and she kicked him before grabbing the gun and telling him to stop.

"I thought: 'How dare you?' I grabbed hold of the gun with both hands and said: 'Stop it, young man.' I was more angry than anything that he could have so little respect to do this," she said.

The gun was later found to be an imitation. At the Old Bailey yesterday Hussein, a Somali refugee living in Harlesden, north London, admitted attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm with intent.

Outside court, Miss Mughal, a beauty consultant at a clinic in Kensington, said that she had been travelling to see friends in Wembley Park, on the Jubilee Line, on a Sunday evening in March

when a group of youths entered the next carriage at Canon's Park. As the train started moving, one of them came through the connecting door into her carriage.

"I thought he was coming for money or a cigarette. He stood about a foot away from me and pointed at my bag saying, 'Give me money'."

Miss Mughal, 5ft 2in, was several inches shorter than her attacker, but she said that her immediate instinct was to fight back. "I just got hold of his hand and I twisted his finger and pushed him away. But he came at me again and I kicked him in the groin."

Hussein then pulled something silver from his pocket. "I thought it was a knife and that's when I really went cold. Then he went click, click with it. I realised it was a gun and he pointed it at me. I thought I was finished, but I got hold of the gun and said to him, 'Stop it, young man. No.'"

Hussein retreated into the next carriage and Miss Mughal pulled the emergency cord, stopping the train as it pulled into the next station. Two members of the public and Underground staff ran to her aid as she pointed at

Hussein trying to leave the platform. They held on to him until the police arrived.

Matthew Kennedy, for the prosecution, told William Clegg, QC, the Recorder, that the gun was later established to be a cigarette lighter shaped like a revolver. It was never retrieved, as Hussein threw it to a gang of three boys as they ran away. It was identified by a member of London Transport staff who had a similar lighter.

Mr Clegg adjourned the case until October 16 for pre-sentence reports, but warned Hussein: "I want to make it plain that I cannot conceive any other sentence than a custodial one. I want the defendant to be under no illusions as to his fate."

Miss Mughal, of Ilford, Essex, said that she did not regret her action, but would not do it again. "I did it because I was angry. I thought, 'How dare he do this?' Afterwards I was in shock. I cannot believe I did this."

She still travels on the Tube but said she was nervous of strangers. "Now if someone walks up to me in the street I have to cross the road."



Shanaz Mughal, left, outside the Old Bailey yesterday with her niece, Zara

## Choir's second suicide linked to pornography

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SECOND member of a renowned boys' choir has killed himself after being arrested over child sex allegations, it emerged yesterday.

Police said music teacher Adrian Bush, an adult member of the Wenhampton Choir in Suffolk who played the piano at its concerts, had been questioned over child pornography seized at his home. Mr Bush, 51, was arrested in April under Operation Aurora, a nationwide crackdown on child pornography, and found dead in his home-filled car in May while on police bail.

An inquest in June, which heard he was suffering from a depressive illness and recorded a suicide verdict, was not told of the pornography seizure. Meanwhile, detectives are investigating the suicide of Christopher Barnett, the choir's choirmaster, who fell to his death from the 150ft-high Orwell Bridge, near Ipswich on Thursday of last week.

Mr Barnett, 37, had been charged the previous day with indecency and placed on police bail pending inquiries into two similar investigations. He had been due to take 35 boys on a concert tour of America next month, accompanied by Mr Bush.

Police set up an incident room at Halesworth, Suffolk, yesterday and appealed for possible victims of Mr Barnett to come forward in a joint inquiry with Suffolk social services. A dozen people have

approached the police, but senior officers said none had so far implicated Mr Bush. Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Ravasio, who is leading the child abuse investigation, said there was no evidence of a paedophile ring at work or of a direct link between the deaths of the two men, but added that he was keeping an open mind. He said: "There is no evidence that Mr Bush was directly involved in child abuse. The Barnett inquiry is ongoing and we have to keep a completely open mind until we speak to his victims."

Mr Barnett, from Halesworth, was married with two sons. He founded the Wenhampton Boys' Choir 12 years ago. A former professional snooker player, he had links with 18 choirs in the north Suffolk area, including two at local schools. The choir has won many awards and performed at churches and cathedrals all over Europe.

Mr Bush, from Ipswich, who was married for 24 years, was said at the inquest to have been depressed about unfounded allegations of a criminal nature which had been made against him by his adopted son, who is now serving a prison sentence. His widow, Celia, said music was "his whole life" but that he had been unable to work because of his depression. His body was found in his car at Wantisden Church near Woodbridge, Suffolk.

## Council raises sign rather than cut grass

By PAUL WILKINSON

STEPHEN Kay was pleased when a workman turned up after he had complained about long grass obscuring a road sign close to his home.

But instead of taking a mower from the back of his council van, the man unloaded welding gear before donning goggles and gloves. Then he took down the sign, added a 4ft section to the top of the existing 6ft pole, and repositioned the sign.

Mr Kay, 40, a chocolate factory maintenance manager, said: "I couldn't believe it when the man set up his welding machine and extended the road sign. It was farcical. Surely it would have been easier to mow the grass. I was left scratching my head in wonderment."

Mr Kay said he had contacted York City Council after he and his wife Carol became concerned that the road signs outside his home were becoming obscured by particularly high grass. They were worried that cars would go too fast along the lane that their son Mark has to cross to get to school.

"The overgrown grass was looking messy and I complained the sign couldn't be seen on this fast stretch of road. What a crazy way to solve the problem," he said.

Mr Kay is now worried that the council is never going to cut the grass again. Mrs Kay said: "In the past North Yorkshire Council al-



Stephen Kay and the now-elevated sign

ways kept the grass cut but York City Council is now responsible. When we rang up we never expected this. It is bizarre to say the least."

Graham Tissiman, head of highway management in York, said: "Our policy is to cut vegetation in front of traffic signs at least twice a year. In this case there seems to have been an internal communications problem."

"The sign was raised with the best of intentions by the council workman, which is what we do if there is going to be any growth vegetation problem."

Mr Tissiman added: "Our grass-cutting rota are now being looked at."

## Co-pilot is grounded by fear of heights

By ADRIAN LEE

AN AIRCRAFT carrying 49 passengers was forced to make an unscheduled landing after the co-pilot had an anxiety attack at 33,000ft and said he was afraid of the height.

The man, in his 30s and a pilot for seven years, complained of feeling unwell on the Maersk Air BAC 1-11 flight from Birmingham to Milan over Moulins, in France. He stated that he was "frightened of the altitude".

According to the air accident investigation branch report the co-pilot refused oxygen or a soft drink and "continued to show symptoms of anxiety and stress".

At that stage the co-pilot was showing such severe symptoms that the standard "in-patients drill" of sliding him back in his seat and locking his harness could not be carried out by the purser.

The captain requested permission to land at Lyons, in daylight, on May 9. During the descent, he considered his co-pilot had recovered sufficiently to assist with the landing checklist. This was completed safely.

Roseanne Crossey, a spokeswoman for Maersk, a Norwegian-owned British Airways franchise operator, said the co-pilot left the airline four days after the incident. "The pilot had been with us for just under a year and there had been no problem before. I don't believe that he is flying any more."

## Yo-Yo Ma. A serious musician who calls his cello Petunia.



Yo-Yo Ma has been called the greatest cellist of his generation.

Mr Ma merely describes himself as "very fortunate," for he plays on the Davidoff Stradivarius (previously played by the late Jacqueline de Pré) and a Montagnana made in Venice in 1733.

"They have different voices," he explains, describing the Stradivarius as "more tenor, while the Montagnana is earthier, more baritone."

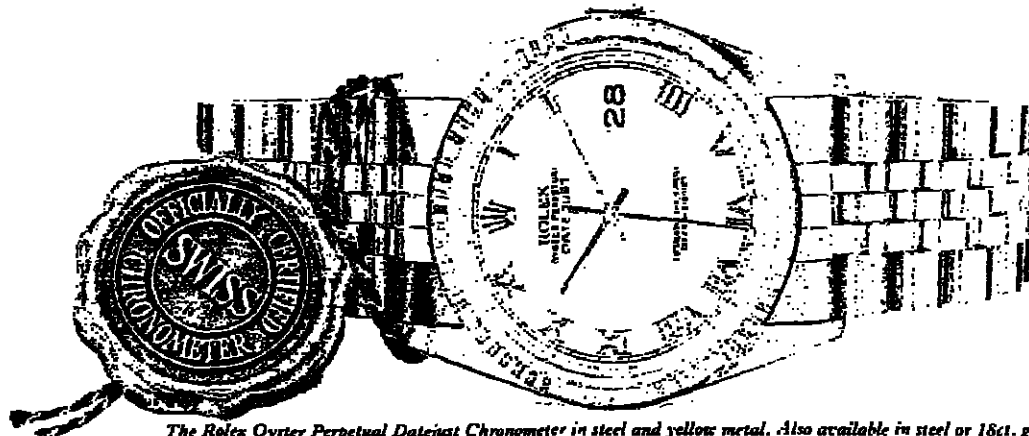
However, Mr Ma insists he can only elicit the most pleasing sound from each instrument by exercising its full musical

range. Thus, besides giving classical performances, he frequently commissions and premieres new works. He plays with musicians from the Kalahari Desert to Nashville, Tennessee; and gives master classes almost anywhere he goes. "Once I played the Montagnana at a master class in Salt Lake City," he confides, "and a student suggested a name for it."

And since Yo-Yo must always buy these instruments their own airline tickets when travelling, he has sometimes been amused to hear himself request "one ticket for myself, and one for my cello, Petunia!"

On the subject of his third instrument, the Rolex Chronometer which also accompanies him everywhere, Ma is equally candid and affectionate. "I just love it," he says. "It's extremely elegant. And utterly indestructible."

Which is no more than might be said about Yo-Yo Ma's contribution to our understanding of musicianship. **ROLEX**



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## Southend offers last resort for hounded Indian MP

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI AND ADRIAN LEE

NUMBER 148 Johnstone Road, a pleasant detached house in Southend-on-Sea, is not an obvious hotbed of international intrigue. But its clipped hedges hide a scandal which has shaken India.

Inside is Sukh Ram, a former minister wanted for questioning in his homeland about the discovery of a huge cash hoard at his Delhi residence. He arrived in the Essex resort a month ago, dragging Johnstone Road into the limelight. Rather than return home to face his interrogators, Mr Ram chose to break his journey from the United States, where he had been receiving medical treatment, to "recuperate" with relatives in Southend.

Since then he has shown little inclination to return to India. Almost daily, Indian journalists are to be seen in Johnstone Road, demanding answers from a reluctant Mr Ram. His daughter, Aruna Ram, the wife of a doctor, politely turns them away from



The house in Southend

the house, which doubles as a surgery.

Yesterday she would say only: "He's not well. He will be going back. He will give his statement when he arrives in India. The problem is the political situation in India, things are not right there. We just want to mind our own business and be left alone."

The Indian Central Bureau of Investigation has given Mr Ram until this Sunday to leave Britain. Meanwhile, he has been expelled from India's Congress Party but is still a member of Parliament, representing a north Indian seat in his home state, Himachal

Pradesh. "The information that we would like him to return has been conveyed to him," said a spokeswoman for the High Commission for India in London yesterday.

India and Britain have an extradition treaty but the British Government has not yet been involved in the scandal, which began with a raid on Mr Ram's homes in Delhi and Mandi, in the Himalayan foothills, while he was abroad.

Since then, bank lockers in the names of family members have been raided by police, yielding rupees and jewellery. The cash, amounting to £660,000, which friends claimed was "planted", was found in an attaché case.

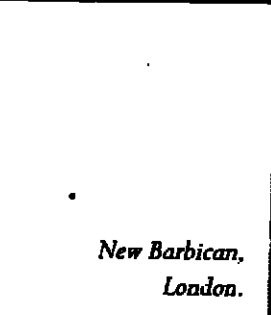
Mr Ram, Communications Minister until earlier this year, has said he feels "shock and agony" about his treatment. But Indian police suspect he has delayed his departure until his lawyers ensure he does not face immediate arrest when he steps from his plane.



The Atlantic Tower, Liverpool.



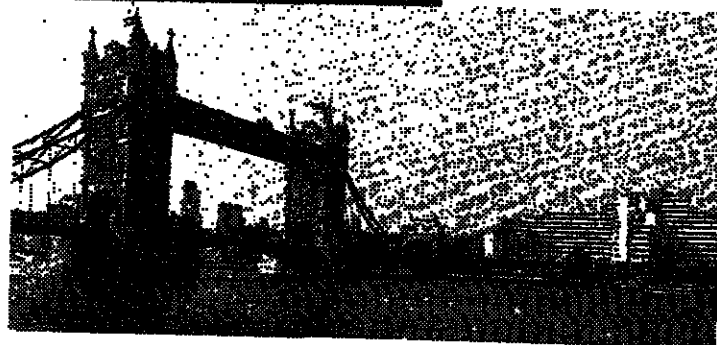
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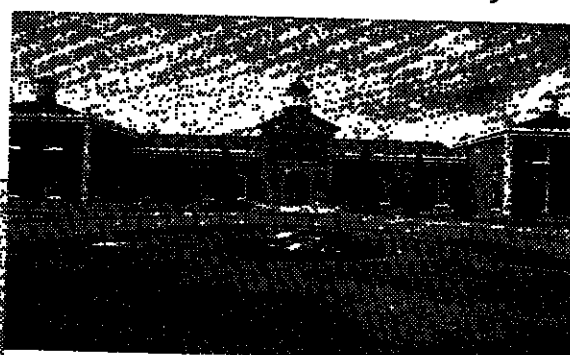
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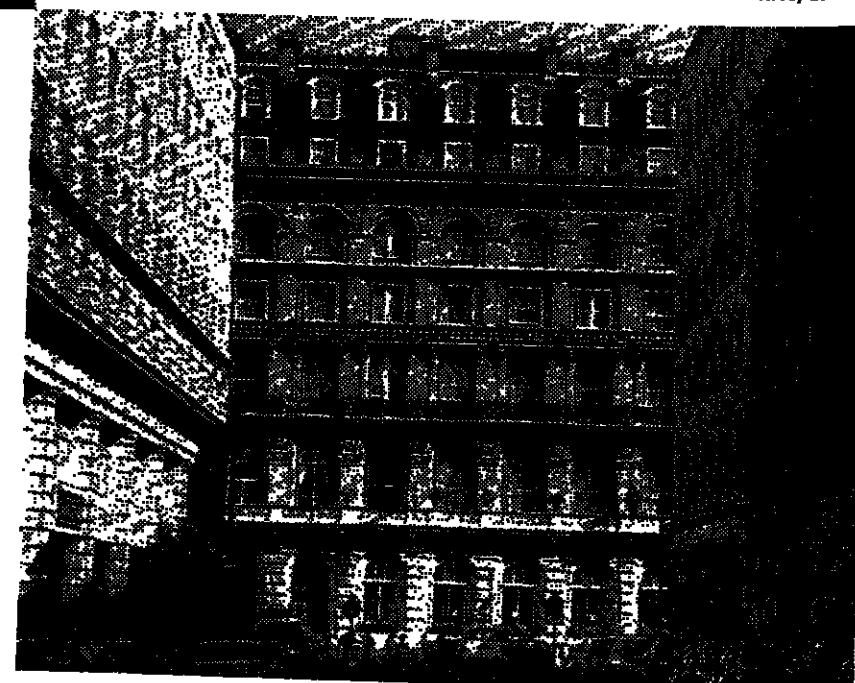
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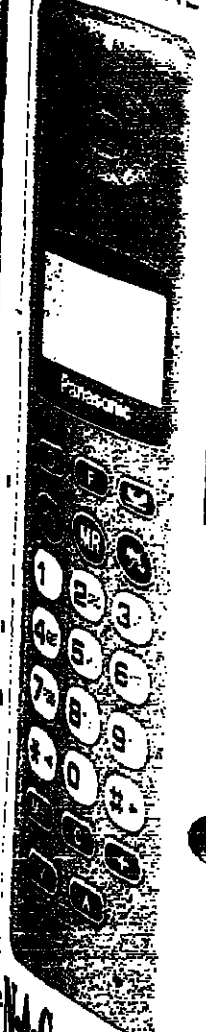
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Child tells specially trained officers that she saw man bludgeon mother and sister to death

## Josephine 'waved at killer before hammer attack'

By a Staff Reporter

THE child who survived a hammer attack that left her mother and six-year-old sister bludgeoned to death may have waved to their killer, police said yesterday.

Nine-year-old Josephine Russell has told detectives that she saw the same man launch his murderous assault with a hammer. Detectives are still trying to discover in which order Josephine, her sister, Megan, her mother Lin and the family dog were attacked on July 9.

Two trained officers are using "cognitive" interviewing techniques to slowly extract details of the murders from the child, whose speech has been severely impaired as a result of serious head injuries.

She has told police that an E-fit of a man seen close to the murder scene looks "very similar" to the man who attacked her. Police say that Josephine suffered substantially fewer blows than her mother or sister, although the serious



Josephine, frightened by police E-fit of killer

head injuries inflicted by the killer have left her unable to speak.

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Stevens, the officer leading the murder hunt, said: "Josie has said that she was walking home with her mum, her sister and her dog and that as she turned on to a woodland track, there was a car

parked. In the car was a man, and as Josephine walked by this man, she waved to him. She then continued walking and somehow this man got in front of them, approached her and she was attacked."

"She also witnessed her mother being attacked. She describes a hammer. She describes how her mother was struck when this man approached."

Detectives are to show a model of the murder scene in Chillingham, Kent, to Josephine today in an attempt to gain more details about the exact circumstances of the killings.

Mr Stevens said: "We are having to take things very slowly but Josephine obviously has a clear memory of the attack. She has seen E-fit of a man seen near the murder scene and she had a strong reaction to that. She was obviously very frightened."

There is no suggestion that Josephine knew her attacker or had been stalked by the man beforehand, police said. Detectives have also eliminat-

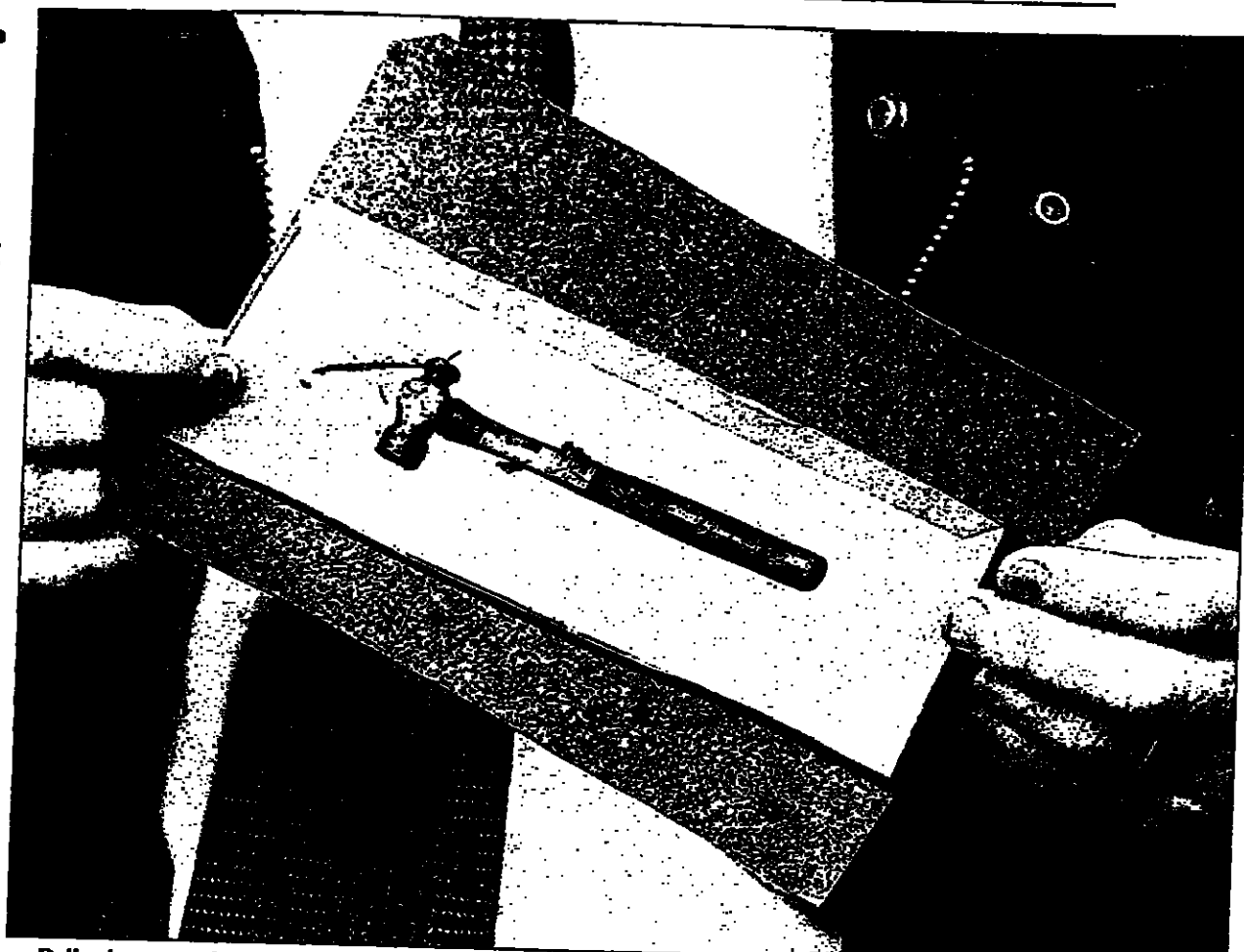
ed a man named by 14 people after an appeal on the BBC Crimewatch programme.

A hammer found in the area on Monday is still being tested by forensic scientists after initial examinations proved inconclusive as to whether this was the murder weapon.

Detectives are keeping an open mind about the hammer, which was found by local people after recent television appeals. It had no visible traces of blood and was found sticking up in some mud close to a hedge where a bloodied swimming towel belonging to Josephine and Megan had been dumped shortly after the murders.

It is a distinctive ball-peen hammer with a label with the words "Genuine hickory" printed on it and manufactured by Draper.

Mr Stevens said: "I hope and pray this is the murder weapon but we cannot be sure for at least a couple of days. It may be that the hammer was placed there after the murders."



Police hope results of forensic tests on the hammer found near the scene will confirm it is the murder weapon

## Coe quits gun lobby in protest

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

SEBASTIAN COE resigned yesterday as honorary president of a gun lobby group in protest at personal accusations levelled against a father who lost a daughter in the Dunblane massacre.

The junior government whip disowned comments made by the National Pistol Association against John Crozier, whose five-year-old daughter Emma was one of 16 children murdered by Thomas Hamilton. The association described Mr Crozier, who has campaigned for a ban on handguns, as an "ex-Royal Marine with an aggressive style", a comment that pro-

voked widespread fury. Mr Coe, the former Olympic champion who is now MP for Falmouth and Camborne, said that he had considered the association's views about the Dunblane tragedy which have caused much anger and upset.

"I have now studied these comments and the sentiments expressed, with which I disagree," he said. "I have today written to the chairman of the National Pistol Association resigning as honorary president."

A document sent to association members said Mr Crozier was working to a secret agenda in campaigning for a ban on handguns and alleged he tried to bribe a lawyer at the Cullen inquiry. Mr Crozier's wife, Alison, said the family had been "sickened" by the allegations. "They are simply clutching at straws and bringing things down to a terribly low level. None of what is being said is true."

The controversial bulletin was originally to have appeared in *Target Gun* magazine. The gun group later offered "sincere apologies for any embarrassment and distress" and promised a full inquiry. The association said yesterday: "We regret the decision of Sebastian Coe to resign as honorary president."



Coe: angry with article about Dunblane father

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# Working mothers 'threaten future of the human race'

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

CHANGES in the way women are bringing up their children could threaten the future health of the human race, according to a European child health expert.

Working mothers who leave their babies with child-minders and use powdered artificial feed are undermining millions of years of evolution designed to promote survival.

The dramatic change in patterns of child rearing during the past 100 years, particularly in the West, has already shown signs of stunting children's intellectual and physical development.

claims Professor Forrester Cockburn, President of the European Association of Perinatal Medicine, which is holding

a conference in Glasgow this week. Professor Cockburn, who is head of the department of child health at Glasgow University, is examining the relationship between baby-feeding and the chemical development of the brain. He claims that studies show that using "dead" powdered milk rather than "living" breast milk stunts the brain's growth, resulting in lower IQs, sight problems and a child being more prone to serious illness, such as heart disease, in later life.

Breast milk is a complex formula that has evolved over millions of years. Its active enzymes, amino acids, minerals and fatty acids are crucial to a child's development, Professor Cockburn says. The

development is so finely tuned that mother's milk contains specific antibodies to protect the newborn from illnesses unique to their environment. A woman in southern India, for example, will have antibodies and protective cells in her milk to tackle viruses and bacteria in South India, while a woman in Glasgow will have a different set, Professor Cockburn claims.

In addition, research in America has exposed links between a working mother's more distant relationship with her bottle-fed baby and the potential for emotional and behavioural problems later.

Professor Cockburn said: "A mother breast-feeding with a supportive family structure around her, that is the way the human species has evolved. The changes happening now are not good." He added that people who thought he was wrong should look at the evidence.

He argues that research is needed to look at the effects of current changes in the way we bring up our children. He would also like to see studies into good practice in countries such as Sweden, where women are allowed up to two years off work after giving birth. "I think the UK's arrangements for women in the first year of a baby's life are very primitive," he said. "We need to make it acceptable and possible for women to have a longer time with their child after birth: one or two years."

Scientific progress, which now makes it viable for premature babies to survive at 24 weeks, has also led to a greater likelihood of children being born with disabilities and learning difficulties, he said. According to research in Glasgow, some inner-city areas in Britain now have a premature birth-rate equivalent to that in some of the worst parts of the developing world. In underprivileged areas of Glasgow, levels have reached 19 per cent, the African average, and almost three times the rate in Britain. The main causes are drugs, alcohol, poor nutrition and social conditions.



Rosie Clayton training for the polar relay with Brian Brown, her personal trainer

## Polar hopefuls must first face Dartmoor challenge

BY ADRIAN LEE

A GROUP of 45 women will tonight begin an arduous three-day selection test on Dartmoor for the right to join an expedition to the North Pole next year.

No British woman has ever walked to the North Pole and the organisers, who will choose 15 women for the 600-mile relay next April, say their aim is to "scare them stupid". Those taking part include Rosie Clayton, 36, who is a niece of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Mary Hadow, a spokeswoman for the Polar Travel Company, which is organising the expedition, said: "We want to break all their defences and see who is still full of enthusiasm and team spirit. It will be heart-breaking for those who don't make it but we couldn't choose between them without doing something like this."

The women, aged from 18 to 55, will be deprived of sleep and carry little more than a sleeping bag, a stove and a few provisions as they set out on their 25-mile trek across the moors. Mrs Hadow's

husband, Pen, who attempted a solo polar walk without a sledge earlier this year, will accompany the group. Eight teams of two will walk in relays to the Pole.

The expedition, which will use aircraft to drop the teams onto the ice, will cost £250,000 with those taking part providing £1,500 each and the remainder being raised through sponsorship. The actress Dawn French has agreed to become patron of the expedition, which will set out from Resolute Bay in Canada.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Lamb joins Botham in libel case appeal

The former England cricketer Allan Lamb is to join Ian Botham in seeking a retrial of the High Court libel case against Imran Khan that they lost in July, leaving them with legal costs estimated at £400,000. Mr Lamb's solicitors said they had been instructed to serve a notice of appeal on the former Pakistan captain.

A spokesman for Swepstone Walsh said: "The grounds of appeal are, amongst other things, that the verdict was perverse and because of serious misdirections by the trial judge to the jury. Allan's decision to appeal... has been reached entirely independently of Ian Botham's similar decision. It is likely that both appeals will be heard next summer." The two players had claimed their old rival had branded them racists and had accused Botham of being a cheat.

## RAF loses abortion case

A woman who had an abortion to keep her job in the RAF has been awarded £12,000 for sex discrimination. Yvonne Roper, 35, told an industrial tribunal in Liverpool how she had been forced to have an abortion, was pressured into marriage and then suffered a miscarriage after leaving the RAF when she refused to terminate a second pregnancy.

## Beef crisis gets verse

Fifteen cattle farmers in Somerset have reacted to the problems of BSE by making a record to praise British beef. The song, *British beef is the best beef by far*, was written by amateur composer Ross Young, of Stoke St Gregory, near Taunton. On the B-side is another composition by Mr Young called *Moo Cow Blues*, which gives a cow's view of BSE.

## Pre-packed food risk

Supermarket shoppers pay up to three times as much for pre-packed fruit and vegetables, but are likely to receive food containing more germs and bacteria than goods sold loose. BBC's *Watchdog* will claim tonight. The programme found that 19 out of 30 samples of pre-packed fruit and vegetables contained more bacteria than their loose equivalents.

## Commission accused

A senior officer of the Equal Opportunities Commission is planning to take a claim for sexual discrimination to the European Court of Justice. Margaret Boyle, its policy officer, alleges that while on maternity leave she was paid less than her full salary and below her sick pay entitlement. The Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union is backing her.

## Nature reserve lost

English Nature has "de-listed" one of its National Nature Reserves. It wanted to graze stock to help to manage Brauton Burrows in north Devon but the owner, Devon Christie Estate Trusts, objected. The two were unable to agree on the renewal of the sublease and English Nature is to withdraw its warden from the Unesco Biosphere Reserve site.

## Frog triggers raid

Police raided a garden at Bovingdon Army Camp, Dorset, to free a frog that had hopped into a mousetrap set by a soldier to deter mice which had been gnawing the lining of his pit. Officers took the traps and told Corporal Mervyn Ryan that, under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, it was an offence to injure a wild animal with an unlawfully set trap.

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## Scargill tells Blair to keep out of trade union affairs

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ARTHUR SCARGILL made a scathing attack on Tony Blair yesterday, warning him not to intervene in union affairs.

He also accused leaders of the TUC of trying to turn the congress into a "fudge factory" because they refused to sign up to his motion and back a specific figure for the minimum wage. The general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers urged delegates in Blackpool to defy the TUC leadership and Mr Blair by supporting his call for the rate to be set at £4.26 an hour.

The debate was the most heated of the conference this week, with the old Left clashing with the modernisers. Mr Scargill, who resigned from Labour last year to form his own socialist party, said he was no longer prepared to keep quiet in the interests of a Labour election victory.

"I am sick and tired of listening to Labour leaders telling us not to rock the boat and then intervening in our affairs," Tony Blair can do what he wants. This conference is an independent trade union movement. Let's assert our independence."

Earlier he said that he made no apology for being a "moderate supporter for a moderate resolution". He pointed out

that most union officers speaking on the platform earned considerably more than £4.26 an hour. "It is the easiest thing in the world for people on £20, £30 or £40 an hour to pontificate about people on starvation wages."

Mr Scargill's accusations against the TUC leadership had strong support from Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison. He chided John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, for telling him not to press for £4.26.

Mr Bickerstaffe said he had spent most of his working life trying to raise wages for the poorest workers. He insisted that a £4.26 rate could easily be afforded by a country that had earned £80 from privatising national assets and £150 billion from North Sea oil. "We are not asking for favours, we are asking for fairness. It's the defining issue of the trade union movement. A labourer is worth his or her hire. If we lose that we might as well pack up and go home."

John Edmonds and John Monks, the TUC general secretary, urged delegates not to split the trade union movement by calling for an unrealistic rate. They argued that the conference should rally behind the general council re-

port, which suggests that the unions should wait for a Labour government to set up a low pay commission.

Mr Edmonds said: "Everyone here supports the rapid introduction of the minimum wage, so why the hell are we parading our divisions when we should be celebrating our unity? Tony Blair will not set a figure till after the election, so our best tactic is to edge up public expectations and demonstrate that a figure of more than £4 an hour will command wide popular support."

"But they are nervous people, these politicians on the eve of the election. If we overreach ourselves we know what will happen. The party leadership will rubbish our figure, some of the Labour movement will cry betrayal and not only will we damage our chances of getting a decent minimum wage, we might even damage the Labour Party's chances in the election."

Delegates overwhelmingly passed three conflicting motions. One called for a minimum wage of £4.26. Another called for a range of rates rising to £4, while the third backed the general council report to delay a decision.

Leading article, page 21



Arthur Scargill urging TUC delegates yesterday to support his resolution for a minimum wage of £4.26 an hour

## £4.26 would help 25% of workers

By JILL SHERMAN  
AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

ALMOST one in four workers would be better off if a Labour government adopted a national minimum wage of £4.26.

Statistics produced by Unison, Britain's largest union, which proposed the motion, show that 5.44 million (25 per cent of full-time workers) earn less than £4.26 an hour, equivalent to a weekly wage of £162 or £8,400 a year. Figures from the Trades Union Con-

gress show that about 16 per cent of workers are paid less than £3.50 an hour, a rate with which Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, would probably be more happy.

The £4.26 per hour endorsed by the Trades Union Congress was drafted by Unison on the basis of half male median earnings. It is thought to be considering a level between £3 and £3.50. The lowest paid are those who clean up after others and

those who serve others. Catering and hotel work have become almost synonymous with low pay. Other low-paid areas are shopwork, the textile industry and working from home.

The TUC figures show that 941,463 people earn less than £2.50 an hour, about 4.25 per cent of the workforce, while nearly two million earn £3.00 an hour. More than two thirds of those earning less than £2.50 an hour are women.

McDonald's pays a starting

rate of £3.25 an hour in its regional restaurants, although the company says that opportunities to increase pay are plenty. Its average hourly rate is £3.90p.

McDonald's said that it was not opposed to a statutory minimum wage, but wanted negotiations to determine a level. A spokesman said: "We welcome the Labour Party's moves to discuss the issue with industry before a figure is proposed."

Maureen Banks, a part-time shop worker in Preston, earns £3.63p an hour. She told a TUC survey of low-paid workers: "There are women working in shops for hourly rates as low as £2.35p. That's fairly typical of non-unionised retail. If they could get away with less, a lot of them would."

Calculations on how much a minimum wage would cost business, and thus rebound into job cuts, vary quite significantly. The Government estimates that a minimum wage set at £4 would cost 1.7 million jobs. This figure stems from calculations by Whitehall economists, not Conservative Party officials.

But the Confederation of British Industry has played down such fears. It has said that a minimum wage of £4 would add about £4.5 billion to industry's pay bill and that a level of £4.10p would lead to the loss of about 150,000 jobs.

## Star turn for Arthur and his minimum rage

### CONFERENCE SKETCH

figure until after the next election, when it hopes to barter with a Labour government.

"I'm sick and tired," screamed Scargill, still clearly struggling with the concept of the microphone, "of Labour leaders telling us not to rock the boat and then interfering in our affairs. Tony Blair can do what he wants."

There are laws against stalkers, but there is still no law against Scargill stalking the TUC's conferences. Break a stick of even the modern TUC Blackpool rock and it still has Scargill written all the way through it. Yesterday he turned the Winter Gardens into TUC World, a virtual-reality fantasyland where life-

like dinosaurs like himself and Rodney Bickerstaffe of the public-sector Unison roamed the podium trying to make everyone suspend belief long enough to convince themselves that Tony Blair will wake up tomorrow and suddenly embrace a £4.26 minimum wage. It's possible he will. It's also possible that he will have a pre-election chest implant.

The stench of this chaos at the TUC reached even the noses of Central Office. By lunchtime David Willetts, the urbane, pin-striped Paymaster General and senior Tory spin-doctor, was installed in Yates's Wine Lodge on Blackpool Promenade looking as comfortable in these garish knees-up surroundings as Ted Heath at a Miss

World Contest, but still pouring champagne for any journalists willing to hear his views.

You could call such an unprecedented visit to the TUC reverse spin. You could call it tampering with the ball. Or you could compare it to the action of the opportunist gang-member who comes in with his kick when the victim is on the floor and beaten — politics, for short.

Since the TUC — in a spasm of Orwellian double-think — passed both the leadership's motion to postpone any decision on a minimum wage figure, as well as the Bickerstaffe-Scargill motion to set the figure at dignified £4.26, it is hard to work out which side won. Most politicians, union leaders and spin doctors doing the arguing hadn't lived on £4.26 an hour for a while.

I was still trying to work it out on the way back to the hotel, when I passed a food stall that offers a menu which consists of just six items: chip, chip, chip, chip, chip, chip. Or just six different ways of saying a pile of chips inside some bread. Or just a roundabout way of saying that at a minimum wage of £4.26 you would have to work for nearly 15 minutes to afford an unappetising chip sandwich. Now that really is robbing a man of his dignity.

As for standing your round with David Willetts while listening to Central Office's side of things, that would cost you more than a day's work.

I think it's become clearer.

JOE JOSEPH

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# Scramble for seats indicates how well Tories will fare

BY TIM HAMES

THE Tory MP John Carlisle's announcement this week that he will retire at the general election creates an unusually complicated scenario for his constituency of Luton North.

Although Mr Carlisle, the 57th Tory to step down, gained a solid 13,000 majority last time, the constituency has been heavily restructured by the Boundary Commission. The best estimate suggests that the Tories would have won by 7,300 votes had it been fought on the new borders in 1992. At the next election, assuming a uniform swing, it would be lost to Labour if Tony Blair's majority were 39 seats or greater.

The interest that a seat attracts among those on the Conservative Central Office approved list of candidates varies according to a number of factors. The size of the majority is usually the most important. A serious contender would not normally apply where the Tory lead was under 10,000 over Labour, perhaps 7,500 if a Liberal Democrat was in second place.

Geography plays an important role. Even very safe seats some distance from London rarely get the quantity or quality of applications that those in southern England receive. A

rule seems to have developed where places more than two hours' drive from Westminster see a sharp drop in enthusiasm. Luton North will certainly do well on that score.

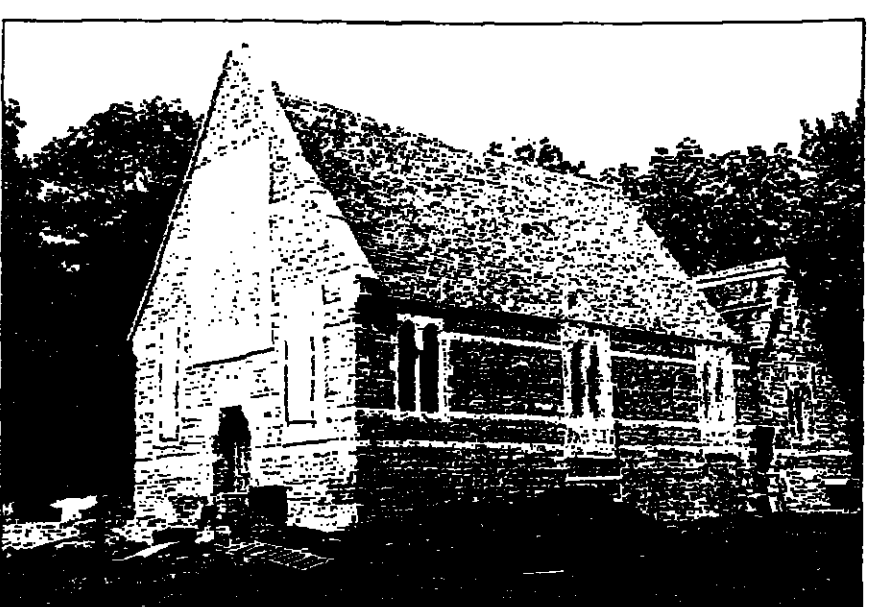
The number of prospective candidates offering themselves for seats with very small majorities over Labour have apparently been as low as 50 this time and few of those are regarded as high-quality contenders. Matters are especially difficult if the sitting member has opted to seek election somewhere else, as in the case of Basil Donohoe and Crawley where David Amess and Nicholas Soames have moved elsewhere. Hence relatively inexperienced figures will be defending key Tory territory. By contrast, staunchly Conservative constituencies such as Buckingham and Witney have received 300 or more CVs. At the other extreme there have been cases in strong Labour areas where only one Conservative has arrived for the final interview thus automatically "winning" the nomination.

The final factor is the point in the parliamentary timetable. By this stage large numbers of the original list have either been selected or have taken the hint and given up the hunt. Despite being an

attractive prospect, Tunbridge Wells is believed to have attracted about 180 inquiries. On the other hand, with little time left and so few opportunities available, aspiring MPs who might previously have sought seats with larger majorities may feel obliged to lower their ambitions.

It is still likely that other MPs will announce their retirement late in the day, possibly waiting until the election is called. Sitting parliamentarians looking for a new home such as Terry Dicks, Dame Janet Fookes, and Sir John Wheeler are more likely to receive advance warning of those intentions. If so they might bypass the challenge John Carlisle leaves behind.

The rest of the field, a mixture of former MPs, past and present ministerial advisers and long-time office-seekers, are in a perplexing position. They must consider the risky character of the seat, their assessment of the national election outcome, and the fear of delaying further and finding nowhere to flout a rosette on polling day. The Luton North Conservative Association postbag will be scrutinised for signs of how ambitious Tories expect their party to perform.



The Methodist chapel in Sproston, where Alfred Roberts used to preach, and as it looks now on the campus of Baker University, Kansas

## Thatcher to dedicate father's chapel in US

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Thatcher will visit the Victorian chapel in which her father used to preach 60 years ago when she travels to the United States next month.

The ironstone chapel, built in Sproston, near Grantham, in 1864, was last used by worshippers in 1988, by which time it had a leaking roof and rotting floor. It was sold to Baker University in Kansas last year for £20,000.

All 25,000 stones were dismantled, numbered, sent to America and have just been reassembled on the campus, at a cost of about £120,000, using a DIY instruction sheet and 1,200 photographs. The oak pulpit and altar-table, panelling and stained glass went too. The only difference is that the structure has been adapted to

survive the earthquakes to which the campus, 40 miles south of Kansas City, is prone.

Some 25 Sproston locals will be among those attending a ceremony on October 23 in which Lady Thatcher will dedicate the 37th building. She said yesterday: "I am delighted to have been asked. I look forward to the ceremony and meeting as many of the local community on the day as possible."

Hugh Brammer, 79, said he was delighted that the Americans had restored the chapel. He could recall when the congregation exceeded 50; "towards the end, it had a congregation of five." The site on which it once stood has been turned into a garden.

Annie Stockwell, whose late husband attended the chapel for 70 years,

said: "It is better for it to go and be used as a place of worship than to stay here and crumble to pieces."

Mr Brammer is among a dwindling number of worshippers who can remember the sermons of Alfred Roberts, grocer, politician and Methodist lay minister. "He was big physically. He had presence. He was a heavyweight speaker who was sincere and convincing."

"People used to turn up for him. He would preach from both the Old and New Testament. He was a very good preacher who was greatly respected," he added.

Baker University, a Methodist institution founded in 1858, is keen to see the chapel used by young worshippers. It has 850 undergraduates but, until buying the chapel, it had no

place of worship. Its president, Dan Lambert, was distressed by this omission and a member of its faculty was dispatched to seek out redundant chapels while on a visit to Grantham. Sproston is in Leicestershire, about ten miles from Grantham.

David Pittman, vice-president for business and finance of Baker University's treasury, said: "We wanted a chapel from England, where our faith was born with John Wesley." The Thatcher connection was an added bonus. "Having her as a guest on our campus will be one of the best days of Baker University's history," he said. "We've had a number of Presidents over the years, but she's quite an individual."

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

### Goldsmith to purge extremists from party

BY ALICE THOMSON

THE Referendum Party has become a target of far-right extremists, including members of the National Front, who are trying to become candidates so they can benefit from Sir James Goldsmith's generous funding.

Sir James is employing a security company to try to weed them out. Resolution Security is going through all 400 potential candidates' political and criminal records. The company has checked the records of anti-fascist groups.

One National Front activist, Andy Carmichael, claimed that the Referendum Party was "crawling" with National Front members. Mr Carmichael managed to become the party's West Midlands campaign manager despite having stood in elections as a National Front candidate.

He was dismissed after Resolution Security checked his background.

### Redwood to attack Kohl over jobless

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN REDWOOD is preparing to launch an outspoken attack on Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, tomorrow as he takes his campaign against monetary and political union to Europe's mainland.

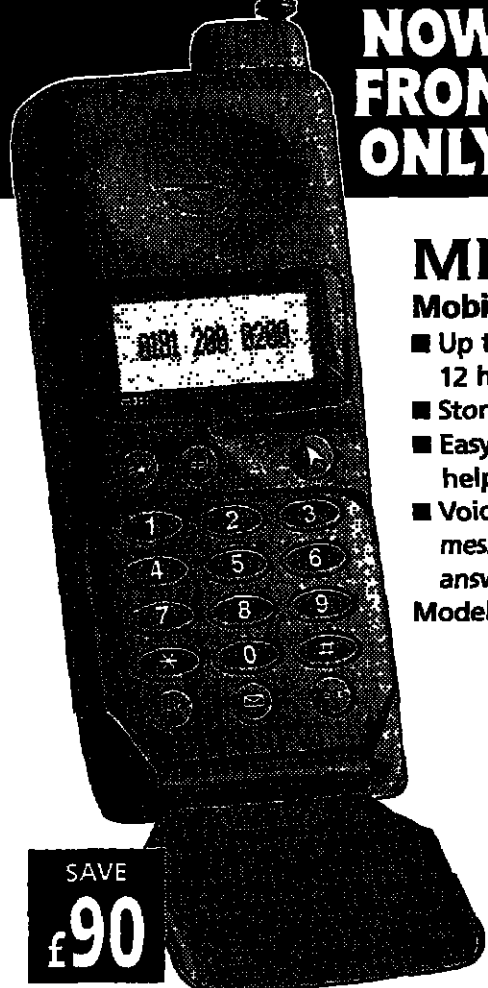
The former Cabinet minister and Tory leadership contender is expected to brand Herr Kohl as "the architect of Europe's misery". Mr Redwood blames the tough policies being pursued to prepare for monetary union for mass unemployment in Europe.

During a debate at Amsterdam University with Karl Lamers, a leading disciple of Herr Kohl and main Christian Democrat proponent of a centralised federal Europe, Mr Redwood will urge others to follow Britain's examples of low interest rates and a flexible exchange rate, pointing out that since it left the European exchange-rate mechanism unemployment has fallen.

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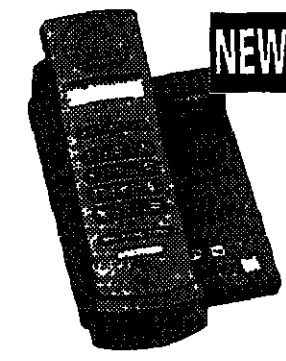
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# Schoolboy dispute badly handled, says Shephard

By DAVID CHARTER AND JOHN O'LEARY

GILLIAN SHEPHARD criticised governors, teachers and education officials yesterday for turning an unruly ten-year-old into a "notorious hero". She said the case of Matthew Wilson, who was twice expelled from being expelled by governors, was badly handled by all involved.

The Education and Employment Secretary deplored the strike vote by teachers at Manton Junior School in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, who claimed Matthew was too unruly to teach, but she refused to intervene. Individual lessons arranged for him to avoid a teachers' walk-out led many parents to remove their children in protest at the cost.

Parents sent their children back to the school yesterday after Joe Ashton, Labour MP for the area, assured them he would ask Mrs Shephard and county officials to seek a more acceptable solution. Mrs Shephard said she was powerless to

intervene but called on Nottinghamshire County Council to act.

"The handling of the whole thing has not only precipitated the threat of a strike but also to have created of the child something of a notorious hero," she said. She had been in touch with Mr Ashton and they agreed the responsibility to find a solution lay with the county council. Mr Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw, said: "The parents didn't want to go back to the school today but I told them they must make some sort of gesture."

Nottinghamshire County Council brokered the deal under which Matthew returned to school this week. However, the estimated £14,000 annual cost must come from the school's budget, which was already stretched in spite of a teacher being made redundant last year.

More than 200 parents have signed a petition demanding that Matthew be removed from the school. Mr Ashton said: "The parents don't think the

governors have much in common with them. They didn't choose them, they didn't vote them in. Governors often don't know one-twentieth of what the teachers do and it is time people started listening."

Fred Riddell, chairman of Nottinghamshire education committee, said he would meet parents today to try to allay their protests about Matthew's tutoring. "I want to explain the plan was the only one which could gain the support of all parties. I hope they will see it was the only way forward to avoid a teacher strike, which would be unacceptable," he said. Mrs Shephard had showed "little understanding of complex local issues".

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "The Secretary of State can and should intervene... the Manton governors have acted unreasonably. It is outrageous for Mrs Shephard to try to hide behind the local education authority."



Face to face: Matthew Wilson, 10, from Woodhill Primary School, Greenwich, with his portrait of Gillian Shephard, to be hung at the Education Department

## Child group condemns humiliation

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE "naughty chair" is coming into fashion for childminders trying to find alternatives to smacking, according to Save the Children. Youngsters are being forced to sit in "naughty chairs" or "naughty corners", which are condemned by the charity as humiliating forms of psychological punishment.

The charity has issued new guidelines for Britain's 50,000 childminders. Its advice comes as a 12-year-old boy, named by his stepfather, tries to persuade the European Court of Human Rights to ban physical punishment.

The charity says it is better to provide a quiet place where a child can be sent for "time out".

## Head teachers demand the right to make final judgments over discipline

By DAVID CHARTER

PARENTS of expelled children must lose their right of appeal if the "rising tide of disruption" is to be turned, the National Association of Head Teachers said yesterday.

It also wants children to lose the

right to choose their next school after their second expulsion, as part of a package to prevent disputes between heads, parents and governors. David Hart, the general secretary, said an education White Paper this autumn should clearly back head teachers' judgments. As

long as parents were given a fair chance to present their case, governors and local authorities should not be able to oppose head teachers' reasons for expelling children, he said. This would prevent disputes such as those seen recently in Nottinghamshire and

South Tyneside, where expelled children have been allowed back by governors or independent appeal committees.

Schools would be able to ask parents to sign a binding contract committing themselves and their children to abide by discipline

policies. Mr Hart said the power of detention should be extended so schools could call children in early as a punishment, as well as keeping them late after classes.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has already announced that new mea-

sures will include scrapping parents' ability to refuse to agree to detention and increasing the period of temporary exclusion from 15 days to 45 consecutive days a year.

Mrs Shephard also plans to ensure that the independent appeal

committees run by local authorities to hear parental objections over expulsions should take more account of the needs of the other pupils. A spokesman for the Department for Education and Employment said no final decision had been taken on further measures.

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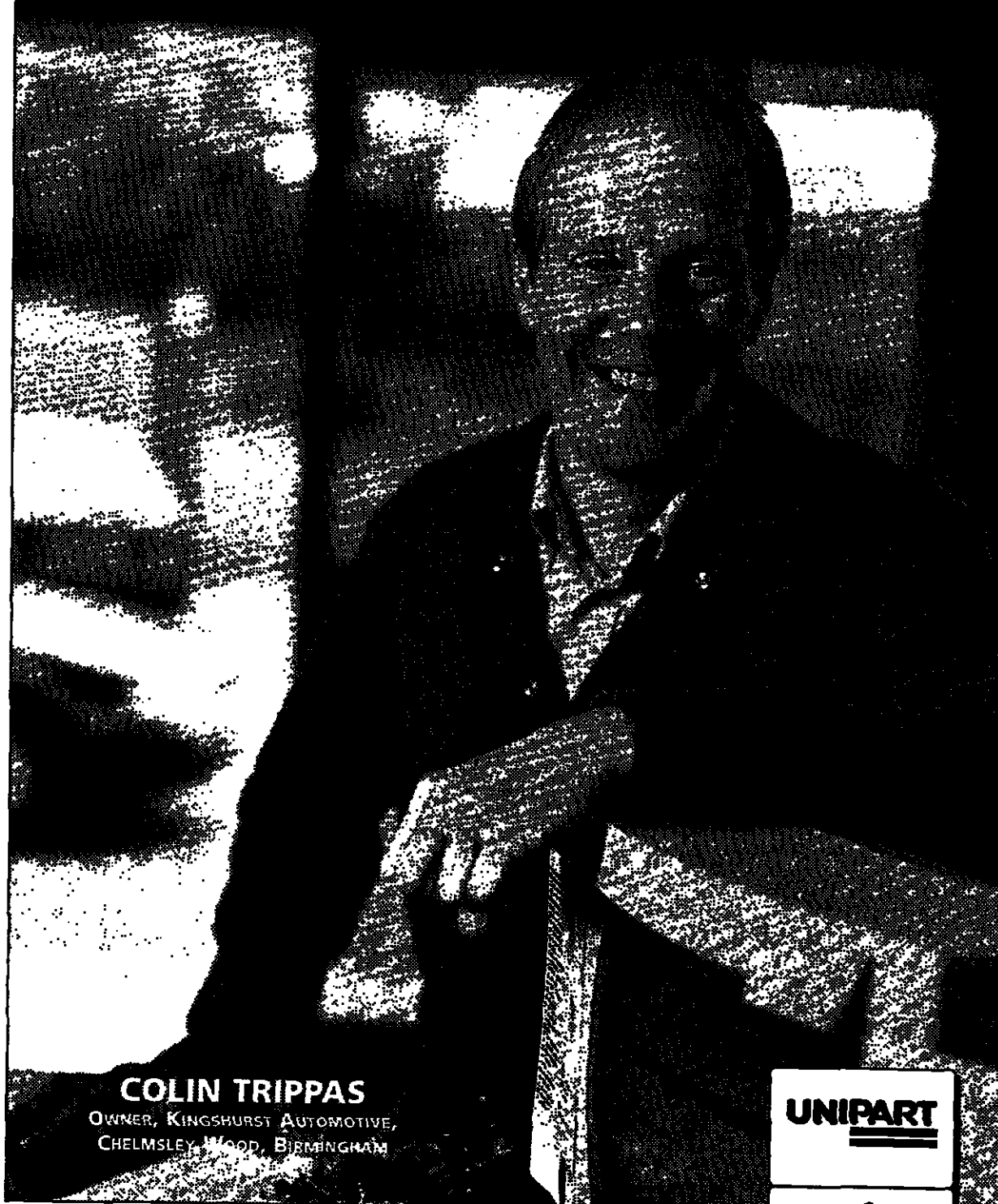
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## Policeman's wife and sons found dead in garage

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE bodies of a policeman's wife and her two young sons have been found huddled in the back seat of her car nine days after their disappearance sparked a nationwide hunt.

The bodies of Margaret Jarvis, 47, and her sons Christopher, 5, and Russell, 7, were found in a disused garage owned by relatives just half a mile from her home in Nounsley, Essex, on Tuesday night. A hosepipe was found leading from the exhaust into the Ford Fiesta.

Police admitted they had failed to search the corrugated iron building even though it was on land owned by Mrs Jarvis's former brother-in-law. Mrs Jarvis's estranged husband, Paul, 35, was last night being comforted by relatives and police colleagues at the family home.

He was said to be shocked and baffled by the actions of his wife, who failed to drop off her children at the home of Mary Rawlinson, her daughter-in-law from a previous marriage, on September 2. Mrs Rawlinson, 21, called police the next morning after finding Mrs Jarvis's house deserted and the car missing.

Police found a note she had left in the house threatening to harm herself and the children. She had not taken any clothing or an inhaler for Christopher, an asthmatic.

The search ended when a suspicious friend of the landowner checked the dilapidated shed. He found the door bolted from inside but spotted the blue Fiesta through a gap in a side stable door.

The children were in the back seat with Mrs Jarvis's body between them. The garage was on farmland

owned by Richard Rawlinson, the village postman and brother of Mrs Jarvis's first husband, Geoffrey, who died of cancer, aged 42, in 1986.

Detective Superintendent Brian Storey said that the bodies had been there for days. He said: "Mrs Jarvis had a minor row with her estranged husband the night before she vanished but friends and family said they remained in close touch and he saw the children nearly every day."

Mr Jarvis was said to be devastated and was likely to have some months off work on compassionate leave.

Christopher and Russell's fellow pupils at Hatfield Peverel Infant School, near Chelmsford, were told at a special assembly yesterday that the brothers had died. Jean Cuthbert, the headmistress said: "They were gentle children. The mother always had a smile on her face although you don't know what is going on inside."



Margaret Jarvis had left a warning note

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# Peer fights council plan to put sewage works on his estate

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Ireland's foremost peers is locked in battle over council plans to seize land at the heart of his estate to build a sewage works.

The Marquess of Sligo, whose family have lived in Westport, Co Mayo, since the 16th century, said that an order by Mayo County Council, requiring him to sell a 14-acre plot, would destroy one of the most important estates in a country that has seen hundreds of centuries of ruin.

The council offered £300,000 for the site, one of the most picturesque parts of the estate, with stunning views of Croagh Patrick, where Ireland's patron saint is said to have fasted for 40 days in 441. Lord Sligo, who lives in the Georgian Westport House, offered an alternative site, on the edge of the 400-acre estate, for £200,000.

That was rejected on the ground that it would add an extra £2 million to the



Westport House

£13.2 million cost of the sewage works. The council insisted that its site, which runs down to Clew Bay, was the most suitable "from both an environmental and engineering viewpoint". A public hearing was held in Westport in May and Lord Sligo is now awaiting a decision on the project from Brendan Howlin, the Environment Minister.

The marquess has enlisted the support of government ministers and heritage bodies in his campaign, which has so far cost him £50,000. He has collected 24,000 signatures, has written to every MP in the

Republic and to all 626 MEPs. The European Union will pay 85 per cent of the costs of the works and Lord Sligo asked the MEPs whether they wanted to contribute to the destruction of an "internationally important heritage site".

He said that he was fighting the council because its plan would break up the estate, endanger the upkeep of Westport House, built in 1730. The estate has been kept in immaculate condition only by opening the house to the public since 1960. Two million people have visited the house and the grounds now contain a children's zoo and mini-railway.

He said: "If you take away or destroy the very assets which produce the revenue which are contributing to the survival of Westport House, you are cutting off the lifeline to its survival," he said. He insisted that he was not a "fanatical preservationist",



The Marquess of Sligo on the site of Mayo County Council's proposed sewage works. Behind him are Clew Bay and Croagh Patrick

but that endangering the upkeep of the house would be a heritage tragedy for Ireland and for Europe.

"Westport is one of the last great heritage estates in Ireland. We cannot afford to let it go, because no nation has lost so much of this aspect of its heritage," he said. "At the turn of the century there were 2,000 estates like this in Ireland.

Now there are only about 50." An Taoise, Ireland's equivalent of the National Trust, has thrown its weight behind Lord Sligo's campaign. Jeanne Meldon, its planning officer, said: "It is considered remarkable that Westport House still stands today and is owned by the family that built it. Even more remarkable is the fact that, over the past 300 years,

the demesne has survived English Williamites, a French invasion, two fires, a famine, a rebellion and a civil war. The development of a treatment works at the location selected would adversely impact on the cultural heritage of Westport House and the demesne."

Scores of Irish MPs have backed the campaign, including Theresa Ahern, of the

governing Fine Gael party, who visited the estate. In a letter to Lord Sligo she said she was alarmed by the sewage works.

The council is adamant that the plan should go ahead. It said that the plant had to be built to comply with European directives. Raw sewage from Westport, whose population of 4,000 doubles during the sum-

mer, is currently discharged directly into Clew Bay. The plant is designed to cater for 20,000 people. "The works will clean up the bay, which will be a great improvement for the town," a spokesman said.

Of Lord Sligo, he added: "You would have thought he would welcome the sewage works because it will attract more tourists to Westport."

## Poachers 'threaten last rhinos in Asia'

By NICK NUTTALL

AN UPTURN in poaching is threatening the survival of the greater one-horned rhinoceros in its last Indian and Nepalese homes, according to a new study.

The poachers, who prize the horns as ingredients for Chinese medicine, are turning to new killing methods, including electrocution. New trade routes are being set up by the criminals to ship the horn to traditional Far East markets, such as Taiwan, South Korea and China.

The findings have come from studies funded by the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Union. Vivek Menon, who carried out the research, said yesterday that there were about 2,000 animals left — far below the 7,500 white rhino in South Africa. Asia's two other surviving rhino species, the Javan and Sumatran, are also badly hit.

While most rhinos are shot, poachers have electrocuted animals by slinging wires over overhead electricity cables where the animals are known to pass. Mr Menon said funds were needed to increase the number of wildlife guards.

□ The Indian tiger could disappear within five years, according to the Tiger Trust. It accused the Indian Government of not doing enough to stop poaching at a rate of around 500 a year. There are an estimated 2,500 animals left.

## MP pans artist's patriotic toilet role

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN MP has criticised the £1,380 being paid to a woman for four cabaret performances in a men's lavatory.

The Arts Council, through Northern Arts, is funding the 90-minute shows by Jane Sanders in which she forms in a Union Jack costume in the lavatories of the Gulbenkian Theatre in Newcastle upon Tyne this week to the accompaniment of Britpop music blaring from her handbag. The lavatory is decked out with mirror balls, flashing lights and posters of pop groups.

Michael Bates, Tory MP for Langbaurgh in Cleveland, is not impressed. "Northern Arts have lost all sense that they are dealing with taxpayers' money by funding this performance. What will people whose funding bids have been rejected by Northern Arts feel? It will be tremendously galling. They won't think it's at all funny."

Ms Sanders, 23, said she had been inspired by the success of Britpop and chose to stage her celebration in a lavatory because "it is an integral part of popular culture of the 1990s".

"It's just about the use of the Union Jack in the 1990s," she said. "It has come back in a popular way rather than the black associations it has sometimes had in the past. It's saying pop music is now a unifying force in the country."

## Revenge of the Ninja Turtles

By BILL FROST

TERRAPINS the size of dinner plates, bought during the craze over Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and then abandoned by their owners, are savaging wild birds at a nature reserve in Cornwall.

The reptiles have been nibbling their victims' wings and even tearing off whole feet in one bite. They are also known to have a taste for human flesh and at least one man has lost most of a finger to a hungry terrapin.

Conservationists launched a scheme yesterday to catch the predators suspected of preying upon water birds at the Swanpool reserve in Falmouth. Volunteers from the Cornwall Wildlife Trust anchored eight rafts on the water in the hope of capturing the terrapins when they clamber aboard to bask.

Mark Nicholson, a trust spokesman, said: "We aim to rehouse them in a special pond at Newquay zoo. Unless we trap them their numbers will remain high, as they live for up to 30 years and are very hardy."

The terrapins, as small as a 50p piece when bought, come in two varieties: the red-eared terrapin (*Chrysemys scripta elegans*) and the common snapper (*Chelonia serpentina*), an aggressive carnivore which, by the time it is three years old and nine inches long, can take a sizeable chunk out of a human being. It is the

common snapper, living at the bottom of ponds and streams, that poses a threat to bathers and waders.

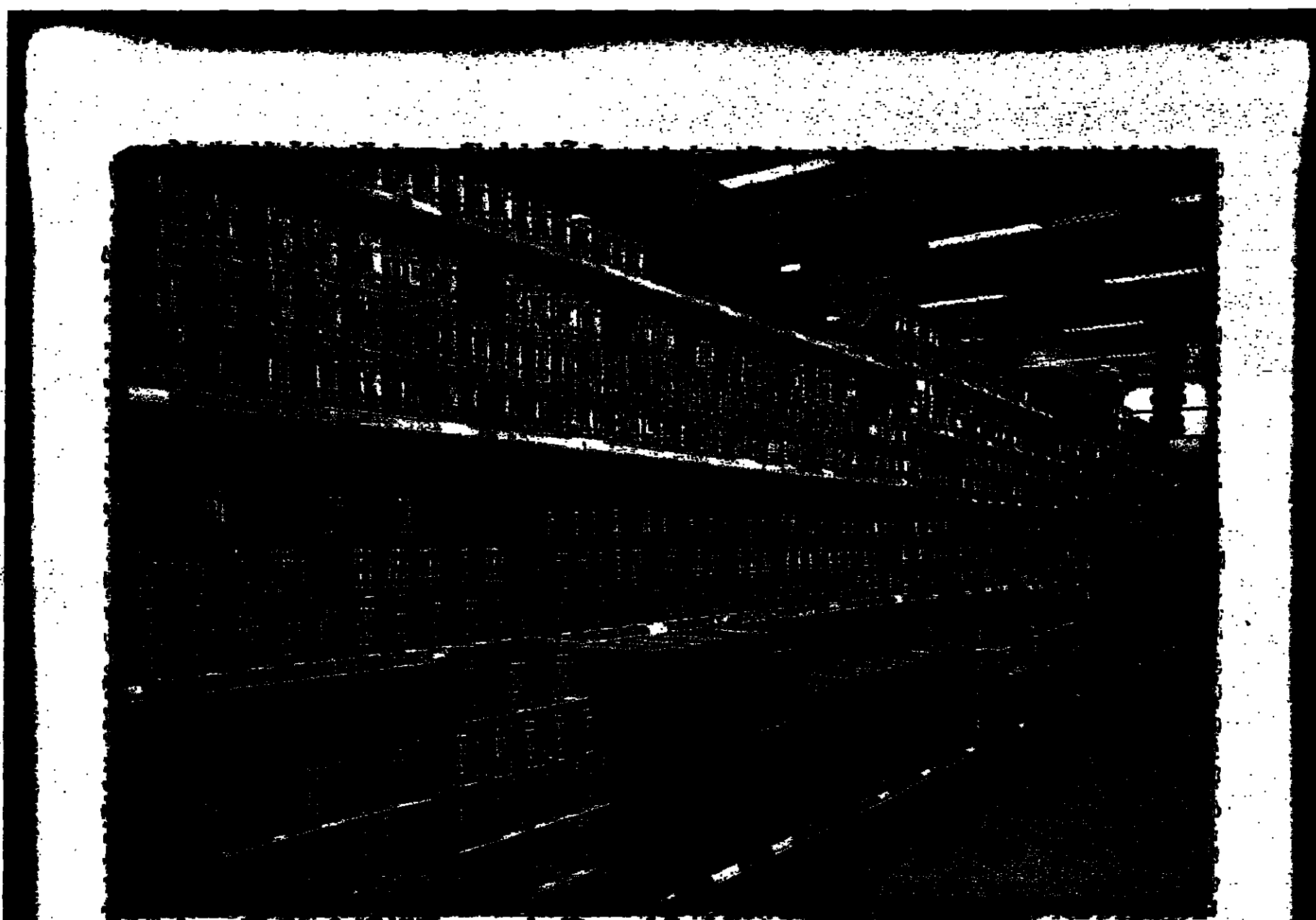
"It is highly aggressive," said a spokesman for London Zoo. "The common snapper is an efficient eating machine that will certainly take a bite or two should pink toes pass before it."

There are other hazards. The terrapins, with their distastefully rank smell, carry a highly infectious strain of salmonella.

The National Terrapin Trust, set up to record the spread and size of the population, says that the reptiles devour native invertebrates, such as great crested newts, and wildfowl chicks. The trust estimates that 80 per cent of Britain's ponds have at least one terrapin lurking.

Four of the predators have recently been causing mayhem at a nature reserve in Southampton, upsetting the ecological balance of Swanwick lake by eating tadpoles, frogs, fish and even ducklings. A spokesman for the reserve said: "They have no natural predators here and will turn the lake into a lifeless expanse of water."

Worse may be yet to come. According to experts, some species exported to Europe from the United States can eventually weigh in at up to 75lb and consume 10lb of meat every day.



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If you think shopping is a chore, imagine what it's like when you're blind. How could you tell the difference between a tin of peaches, or tuna, or even dog food? Small wonder that many blind and partially sighted people find shopping so difficult they avoid going alone. The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) believes loss of sight shouldn't lead to a loss of independence.

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## British Association: nature's tricks range from life-threatening mountains to life-saving sponges

## Violent volcanic eruption expected 'any time now'

REPORTS BY NIGEL HAWKES AND NICK NUTTALL

THE world is overdue a major volcanic eruption and is doing too little about it, scientists meeting in Birmingham were told yesterday.

Professor Bill McGuire of University College London told the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science that the greatest dangers came from volcanoes that had been dormant for a long time. The longer they had been quiet, the more violent the next eruption, he said, and the more difficult it was to predict.

In the next few years a number of well-known volcanoes could be expected to erupt again, including Mount Etna and Vesuvius in Italy. Vesuvius last erupted in 1944, and before that usually erupted once every 20 years, Professor McGuire said.

When it does, it may be a

relatively quiet lava-producing eruption or an explosive event. "Whatever the form of the activity, however, the reactivation of Vesuvius will require the evacuation of 800,000 people," he said.

Other volcanoes to watch include Taal in the Philippines, Mammoth Lakes in California, Pico de Teide on the island of Tenerife, Lake Albano near Rome and La Palma in the Canary Islands.

About 10 per cent of the world's population lives close to an active volcano and that figure is expected to rise. In the next four years more than 100 of the world's cities will have populations of more than two million and half of those will be close to the boundaries of tectonic plates.

These hazards are dwarfed, however, by what Professor McGuire called the Big One, a

cataclysmic eruption that might devastate the global economy. On the Volcanic Explosivity Index, these events score eight, far more powerful than any recent eruption. Mount St Helens in Washington, in 1980, registered as five while Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991 scored six.

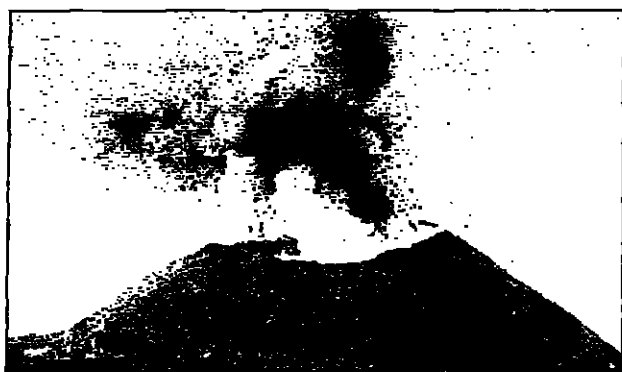
But evidence from the geological record suggests that eruptions registering eight on the index occur twice in every 100,000 years. "Toba in Indonesia was the last, some 70,000 years ago, so we may be living on borrowed time," Professor McGuire said.

An eruption of that size is likely to devastate the global economy through a possibly long-term change to the climate, while the immediate damage if it happened in a developed country would amount to billions of dollars at the very least.

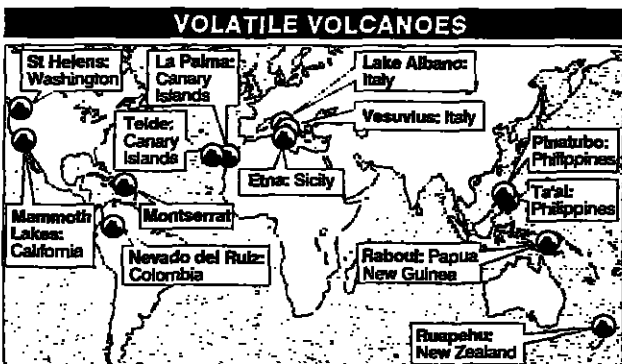
Professor McGuire called for more volcanoes to be monitored - at present only one in five is - and for improvements to monitoring instruments to make them cheaper and more robust. Greater use must be made of satellite sensors, which can monitor a lot of volcanoes continually, and greater efforts made to educate civil authorities and populations about the risks.

The greatest eruption in recent times was at Tambora, in Indonesia, in 1815. Classified as a seven on the Volcanic Explosivity Index, it caused widespread changes in climate and took 92,000 lives. More than 80,000 of these were the result not of the eruption, but of famine caused by the cooling of the dust-laden atmosphere.

During the UN-sponsored International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 18 volcanoes have been selected for special study, but there are at least 600 more which are or may become active.



Mount Vesuvius belching out stones and lava



Michelle Kelly-Borges yesterday with one of the sponges shown to yield medicinal compounds

## Atlantic sponge provides breast cancer drug

A POWERFUL drug to combat cancer has been found in a 150-year-old sponge from the Atlantic Ocean. The discovery, by a British zoologist, highlights how researchers are turning to the oceans for the drugs of the 21st century.

Dr Michelle Kelly-Borges, of the Natural History Museum, said that sponges were proving to be the richest source of promising new compounds for a range of ailments. The cancer drug, found in the deepwater species *Discodermia dissoluta*, taken from the central Atlantic, is undergoing trials.

"The breast cancer drug, which is called discodermolide, is very potent," said Dr Kelly-Borges, who is working with drug scientists to pinpoint promising new species. "It clearly disrupts the process of cell division, potentially preventing the spread of cancer cells in the breast."

Another sponge, found in New Zealand, may yield an

anti-HIV compound and others are proving to have antibacterial and anti-fungal properties. Sponges are a good source of medicines because they produce a range of compounds to defend themselves against fish, bacteria and other organisms.

However, research could be damaging to the marine environment. Dr Kelly-Borges is working with teams in the United States and the Pacific to try to develop ways of farming sponges.

Another team described yesterday how they were finding promising anti-Aids drugs in bulbs, including bluebells and daffodils. Professor Colin Reynolds, a chemist at Liverpool's John Moores University, and Dr Fiers Rizkallah said that plant proteins called lectins could stop the virus that causes Aids from taking over the body's disease-fighting cells. However, drug trials are unlikely to start for about five years.

## Hungry maggots to replace surgeons

MAGGOTS may soon be taking over from the surgeon's scalpel for removing skin cancers and tumours, a British scientist said yesterday. Dr Martin Hall, an insect expert at the Natural History Museum, said the maggots of certain species of blowfly, including screw worms, fed on living tissue.

"By injecting a tumour with something attractive to the insect should encourage them to feed in a particular area. You effectively zone them in to feed on a tumour," said Dr Hall, head of the medical and veterinary division of the museum's entomology department. He said there was evidence that the result would be less scarring and disfigurement and a faster healing of the wound. Dr Hall said there could be huge benefits for treating face, nose and lip



cancers in the developing world.

"In the Third World there is limited access to drugs and surgery. Maggots are plentiful and fairly cheap," he said.

Hospitals in Oxford and Bridgend are now using specially grown maggots to treat wounds on wards. Bridgend General Hospital in mid-Glamorgan is also treating patients at home with sterile-grown maggots. Mary Jones, a nurse with the hospital, takes a pot with her during rounds and says the patients are enthusiastic.

IN BRIEF  
TV theme has foetal attraction

Babies in the womb prefer the signature tune from *Neighbours* to the strains of Strauss's *Blue Danube*, psychologists have found. Professor Peter Hepper of Queen's University, Belfast, could give no explanation except to suggest that the "simple rhythms" of the TV theme appealed to the unborn.

He played the tunes through modified headphones on the stomachs of pregnant women and monitored the results with ultrasound. "With Strauss, we saw no increase in movements. But with *Neighbours*, there was an increase," he said.

Babies can hear sounds from about the 28th week, but full response does not develop until the 34th week, when small movements are seen. Professor Hepper doubted that the babies were dancing. "They appear to move in time to the rhythm of a heavy beat, but they don't have a lot of room for dancing."

After birth, babies exposed to the music continued to respond to it, though their reaction is then to become calm. However, he added: "If you play the tune too often, it loses the ability to pacify them."

## Smart drug to boost IQs

Drugs that can improve memory and sharpen mental agility could be just a few years away, the British Association was told. Professor Steven Rose of the Open University conjured up a world in which such drugs would be as commonly used as steroids already are by body-builders.

Already, he said, there had been worrying claims that up to 10 per cent of boys in the US aged 9 to 13 were being prescribed Ritalin, an amphetamine-like drug, for poor school performance or for a poor relationship with their parents.

Smart drugs, while not available yet, were "getting pretty close." "My guess is that effective smart drugs will be around within the next decade, initially for the alleviation of conditions like Alzheimer's disease."

However, more widespread use would prompt profound ethical, legal and social questions.

## Scientists urge supermarkets to seduce shoppers with music

SUPERMARKETS may soon be exploiting the commercial power of music to influence shopping habits, the conference was told. They are aware of the effect of music but remain "incredibly naive" about its detailed application, said Dr David Hargreaves of Leicester University. They were yet to tap the enormous commercial potential of music.

Fast tunes made people shop more quickly, while those shopping for wine were likely to buy a more expensive bottle if classical music

was playing. But country music constantly played on radio stations led to an increase in suicides among white male listeners, according to a study he and Adrian North carried out in America.

All Asda supermarkets now simultaneously played the same easy-listening music, beamed from a satellite, but little research had been done on the best kinds of music for encouraging people to spend. The American Muzak Corporation, based in Seattle, might have done

such work. Dr Hargreaves said, but had not published the results.

"We've been talking with people who put music in some of the chain stores. Supermarkets are very sophisticated in certain aspects, visual layout and so on, but incredibly naive about music."

What we're suggesting to them is that there are some scientific theories that might help them," Dr Hargreaves added that it was vital for supermarkets and stores not to make a mistake with music if they wanted to attract

customers. "It has got to be appropriate," he said. "If you play the completely wrong music, that is very much worse than playing none at all."

Mr North carried out his own study in a student cafeteria, playing either a tonal computer-based music, Wirral-style organ music or moderately complex pop music. He tested the effects by asking diners to fill in a questionnaire, pressing them in an increasingly coercive way to co-operate until they

yielded. He found they required less persuasion when the pop music was played than either of the other types. Students were also more willing to visit an advice stall set up in the cafeteria when the pop music was playing.

The two psychologists also tested the power of music to set mood by playing people Cadbury's Flake advertisement featuring brass band music, instead of the usual tune. They found, not surprisingly, that the advertisement was much less

well liked to the sound of brass.

The psychological effect of music could easily be seen when driving a car. Motorists travelling fast down a motorway felt the urge to play something racy, like Bruce Springsteen. "But in a traffic jam, that's the last thing you want. Then church organ music would be more appropriate."

One car-maker and a car hire company were interested in whether music had an effect on car safety, the scientists said.

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## Detective work puts a face to the Bruce

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A RECONSTRUCTION of Robert the Bruce's head has been completed, a week after scientific examination of a Scottish knight to contain the king's heart.

Brian Hill, a dental expert, has produced a terracotta likeness of the victor at Bannockburn, based on a skull considered to be that of the Bruce. It will go on display soon at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

Rosalind Marshall, assistant curator at the gallery, said: "Mr Hill has carried out remarkable work. It is a very powerful head with a lot of personality. It must be the closest anyone has got to what he looked like and I'm certain it will attract a lot of interest."

Mr Hill's work on the Bruce has already led him into conflict with the Scottish es-



Brian Hill, a dental expert, with his reconstruction from a skull thought to have been that of the Bruce

tablishment. Using a little artistic licence, he added a moustache, a small beard and a bobbed haircut, which he believed was common at the time.

Scottish historians were horrified. The whiskers were removed because only English knights of the time wore beards and moustaches and his hair quickly followed as there was no authority from the period on how it was cut. So a bald model will go on display.

Mr Hill, 57, head of the Medical Illustrations Department at Newcastle Dental

## Actor claims damages for injury that left him no longer a he-man

BY ADRIAN LEE

AN ACTOR who claims he was injured when a part required him to run into a door began legal action against the theatre company involved yesterday because he can no longer play "he-man" roles.

Robert Spendlove, a successful film and television actor who appeared in *Soldier Soldier*, said resulting back

problems and weight loss had cost him thousands of pounds in lost earnings. He was hurt while appearing in *No Remission* at the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith, west London, four years ago. Performing seven times a week and rehearsing resulted in severe strain to his upper body.

He told Central London County Court, where he is suing the Midnight Theatre Company: "Since this hap-

pened I have been to numerous interviews for work and it has been remarked that my physical characteristics have changed. I am no longer a he-man." He had lost weight, dropping from 13 stone to nearer 11, which was out of proportion to his 6ft height.

Mr Spendlove, who is claiming not less than £5,000, said the play's director should have ensured he was not injured. The case continues.

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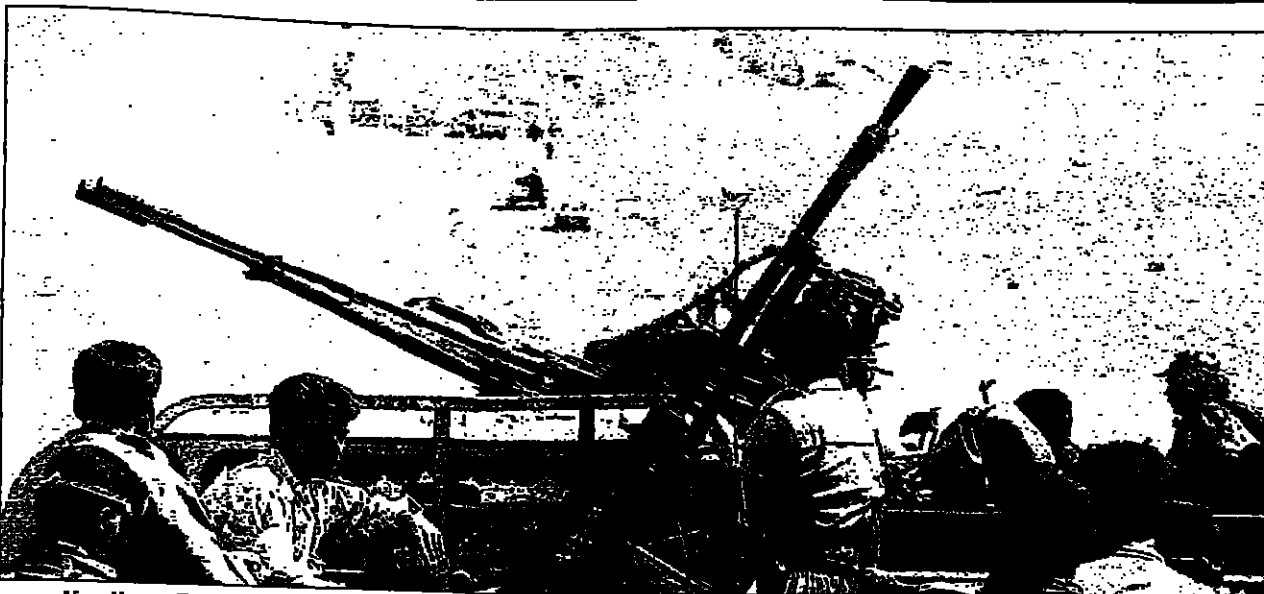
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مكتبة الأصل



## Deal to station B52s at Indian Ocean airfield after Iraqis fire missile and artillery at allied jet patrols



Kurdistan Democratic Party fighters watch as refugees in Mawat, northern Iraq, flee towards the Iran border

## American attack planes will use British base

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday gave permission for the Americans to base four B52s on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, with support personnel, for up to 30 days, in apparent preparation for another cruise missile attack on Iraqi military targets.

A Foreign Office official said that, under the arrangement with the United States, the Americans were also obliged to consult London before embarking on an operation from the Indian Ocean island "against a third party".

The moving of B52s to Diego Garcia, bringing them closer to the Gulf region, was a clear indication of Washington's determination to be ready for another retaliatory strike, with the backing of the British Government.

The preparations for a repeat attack on Iraqi military targets came after two incidents involving American-led coalition aircraft, carrying out combat air patrols over Iraq. The most serious was the launching of a single Sam 6 missile from an air defence base near the town of Girpahn, midway between Zakho and Mosul in northern Iraq.

Iraqi air defence radars locked on to the American

F16s, but it was only a half-hearted attack. The Iraqis switched on their tracking radar "for only a few seconds" according to a Pentagon official, which meant that the 17th missile, weighing about 1,300lb, had to fly blind part of the way towards its target.

The Russian-made Sam 6 missile, codenamed Gainful by Nato, has a semi-active radar homing system and needs the radar link to be maintained all the way to the

the Israeli Air Force in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, is launched from a tracked chassis and the launcher can be moved immediately after firing. "It's a highly mobile system," Christopher Foss, a weapons expert with the Jane's Information Group, said yesterday.

The two F16s, based at Incirlik in Turkey, had been taking part in Operation Provide Comfort, monitoring the no-fly zone over northern Iraq. Iraq, in a brief statement

down any Iraqi aircraft that entered the zone. However, no American aircraft were in the area at the time of the incident and no action was taken. Last week, an Iraqi MiG approached the 33rd parallel but veered away when the pilot spotted American aircraft.

The no-fly zone was extended last week from the 32nd to the 33rd parallel, about 30 miles south of Baghdad, after President Saddam Hussein launched Republican Guard divisions in an offensive into Kurdish regions in the north.

American warships and two B52s, which flew non-stop to the Gulf from Guam, also fired a total of 44 Tomahawk and air-launched cruise missiles against air defence targets in southern Iraq.

□ Ankara: Turkey and Iraq held talks yesterday over Ankara's plan to set up a border security zone to stem infiltration by Kurdish guerrillas based in northern Iraq. "Iraq understands us and we understand each other better," Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Foreign Minister, told reporters after her second meeting in two days with Hamed Youssef Humnadi, the Iraqi envoy. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21

## Twenty coalition aircraft, including RAF Tornados, were over northern Iraq when the attack took place

target. The missile, which was fired at 6.58am London time, missed the F16s by a considerable margin.

The Iraqis switched the radar off to avoid being detected by the American, British and French aircraft in the air at the time. The Pentagon official said that 20 coalition aircraft, including RAF Tornado GR1s, were flying over northern Iraq when the attack took place.

The Sam 6, which was first used by the Egyptians against

carried by the Iraqi News Agency, said its air defence units used artillery and missiles against American and allied aircraft in the north and south of the country. The report did not claim that any aircraft had been hit.

In the second incident, an Iraqi MiG25 fighter and a military helicopter flew briefly below the 33rd parallel into the extended no-fly zone in southern Iraq.

The Americans had issued a warning that they would shoot



A youthful supporter holds the Kurdistan Democratic Party's banner outside Sulaimaniya after its capture

## Kurds trapped at frontier scorn Saddam amnesty

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

TENS of thousands of Iraqi Kurdish refugees were last night trapped on the mountainous border with Iran, too terrified to return home but equally daunted by the appalling conditions facing them in rudimentary camps short of food, water and medicine.

None was convinced by the charm offensive of President Saddam Hussein, who offered the Kurds an amnesty and lifted his five-year-old punitive trade embargo on the semi-autonomous Kurdish areas of northern Iraq.

Iran, which said it preferred to provide humanitarian relief in camps on the Iraqi side of the border, was forced to allow 5,000 to enter its territory after a shooting incident in which refugees said gunmen from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the faction allied to Baghdad, had killed four people. Tehran later said it had allowed "tens of thousands" of refugees across.

The bloodshed triggered a stampede of refugees to a closed border crossing at Bashmaq, where Iran's forces fired into the air but were unable to prevent many entering its territory. "On Tuesday night, KDP men came and asked us first nicely to go back home, but when people confronted them they started shooting. Four were killed," one refugee said.

Despite this, United Nations officials were hopeful that the humanitarian crisis was easing. They revised Tuesday's estimates of 300,000 refugees down to 50,000. Dismayed by the chaotic conditions on the Iranian border, thousands of refugees streamed back to their homes in Sulaimaniya, apparently reassured that Iraqi forces had not entered the city, which was captured by the KDP on Monday after it routed the forces of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

"I left Sulaimaniya after my sister called me on Sunday to tell me that the Iraqis were coming," said Sirwan Rostam, 50, a school supervisor. She added: "I have been active with a Kurdish women's union and criticised Saddam

publicly, so I had to leave. Now I am here with a few clothes and some money. I have lost touch with my sister. I am finished, I am dead."

Several terrified PUK members who were turned back from the Iranian border reportedly held three UN aid workers hostage, apparently hoping to use them as human shields against KDP forces they feared were advancing north of Sulaimaniya. Nine other UN workers were trapped inside their cars for two hours after they were surrounded near the Iranian border by crowds angered that the world body had not intervened to halt the fighting. UN officials from Sulaimaniya defused both situations.

Jalal Talabani, the PUK leader, and many of his officers, had also fled across the border. Iranian guards said. The PUK scornfully rejected Saddam's amnesty offer, insisting his word was worthless and pointing out that he had made a similar offer to his two powerful sons-in-law who defected last year. They were both murdered in February, after being enticed back to Baghdad with promises that they would be forgiven.

Many Iraqi dissidents were also critical of Baghdad's announcement that it had lifted its trade embargo on the Kurdish areas, insisting it would help Saddam to extend his influence in north Iraq. "Free travel between the north and government-controlled areas simply means he will send in more of his secret police," said a spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition of opposition groups. "It also means he will introduce the rationing system that he uses elsewhere to reward those loyal to him and punish those against him. He always sees food as a weapon."

The KDP, which insisted its alliance with Baghdad was over, welcomed the lifting of the embargo. "It will be a big help economically. Fuel prices will tumble and movement between the two parts means relatives can now visit each other easily," Dilshad Miran, a KDP spokesman, said.

## China to exempt its garrison in Hong Kong from local law

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE Chinese garrison to be based in Hong Kong will not be subject to local laws, a Peking official said yesterday. Such immunity is in contrast to the existing practice, with British soldiers who break the law being tried before Hong Kong courts.

The Peking statement contravenes the Basic Law, China's mini-constitution for the colony after the handover of the territory next summer, which stipulates that "members of the garrison shall abide by laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region".

The new garrison rule was

revealed by Qiao Xiaowang, a legal official of the National People's Congress. China's legislature, in an interview with members of the Hong Kong Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood, a pro-Peking political group.

Daniel Wong, the association's spokesman, expressed astonishment at Mr Qiao's statement. "We said to him that it would violate the Basic Law. But he said it would be very difficult for the [People's Liberation] Army to give its soldiers to the local courts."

Maria Tam, a member of the Peking-appointed Preparatory Committee formulating

government structures for Hong Kong, said: "I want the PLA to obey local laws. British soldiers are tried that way. If this happens... a lot of people in Hong Kong will be very concerned."

□ Taipei: Taiwan would not confirm or deny a newspaper report yesterday that the island soon would test-fire a new surface-to-surface missile with sufficient range to strike targets in China. The *China Times* said designers had nearly completed development of the missile.

But Chiang Chung-ling, the Defence Minister, declined to comment. (Reuters)

## Paris tells envoys to work on their tans

BY SUSAN BELL AND MICHAEL BINYON

FRENCH ambassadors have been instructed to boost their country's prestige by dressing more natively and perfecting their tans.

The 200 envoys who attended a two-day Paris conference to learn about the promotion of French business abroad found themselves being advised to buy their suits from the great French couturiers so that they can be "models of French fashion".

Since expensive clothes look considerably better with a tan, the marketing guru, Jacques Séguéla, who masterminded François Mitterrand's successful 1981 presidential campaign, encouraged the ambassadors to ensure that their bronze was always up to scratch.

One puzzled diplomat, currently posted to a northern country known for its wintry climate, immediately asked M Séguéla for suggestions about how he might develop his tan. Jean Gueguinou, the French Ambassador to London, is a spy, trim and dapper man whose suits are well cut and whose manner is as elegant as his refurbished residence.

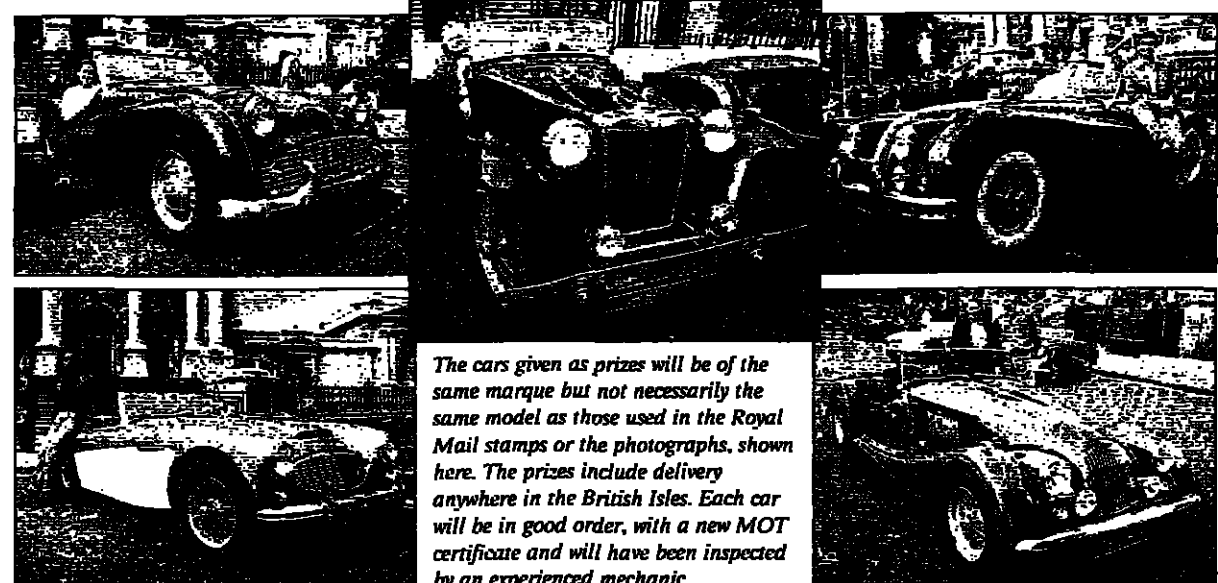
He does not normally boast a deep tan, but has spent part of his summer holiday this year in Brittany, his home province. Fellow diplomats in London expect him to return to the circuit not only refreshed, but full of rude good health and clearly in no further need of the image-makers at the Quai d'Orsay.

Leading article, page 21

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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The cars given as prizes will be of the same make but not necessarily the same model as those used in the Royal Mail stamps or the photographs, shown here. The prizes include delivery anywhere in the British Isles. Each car will be in good order, with a new MOT certificate and will have been inspected by an experienced mechanic.

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Royal Mail marks British motoring's celebration of two centuries this year with a set of five special stamps to be launched on Tuesday, October 1, ranging in denominations from 20p to 63p. There is more to a stamp than just an attractive design as 60 million collectors know. An Edward VII sixpenny stamp issued in March 1904 and overprinted with the words IR OFFICIAL, is worth about £85,000 in mint condition.

● Presentation packs, first day covers, postcards, and the Classic Sports Car stamps are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau: call 0345 641 641 (Mon-Fri); and most Post Offices — for more details call 0345 22 33 44. First day covers are also available from BPCPA: 0181 886 6744

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## Dole seeks to allay Republican fears of Clinton landslide

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE made a hastily arranged visit to Capitol Hill yesterday in an attempt to quell rising panic among Republicans who fear a Clinton landslide in November will cost them Congress as well.

Mr Dole, trailing 21 points behind the President in a new Gallup poll, urged the "faint-hearted" not to give up. He acknowledged some Republicans were "discouraged" but insisted he was not. "The money is rolling in — so don't let anybody dissuade you in this effort."

He sought to illustrate his powers of recovery by producing a letter sent to his father after he was wounded in the Second World War. His survival was "somewhat questionable", it said. "You have your ups and downs in life but the bottom line is: if you are optimistic, if you have the right message, if you believe in the American people, we are going to win on November 5."

Only 120 of the 288 Republican congressmen and senators attended. They applauded when Mr Dole finished, but with little of the excitement that they had shown 90 days earlier when he left the Senate to campaign full-time.

Privately they fear that dispirited Republican voters will not bother to cast their ballots if a Clinton victory looks inevitable, and that the President's momentum will help the Democrats to gain back the House of Representatives. "If we have a [Dole] meltdown then I'm going to get worried," Tom DeLay, the House Republican Whip, admitted.

Another danger for Mr Dole is Ross Perot. On Tuesday night the Texan tycoon named a running mate, Pat Choate, whose protectionist, xenophobic and anti-establishment views will attract followers of Pat Buchanan, the arch-conservative. Mr Perot is languishing in single figures in

the polls, but he has \$30 million (£19 million) to spend on advertising and any improvement in his standing is likely to hit Mr Dole.

Dr Choate, 55, is a Washington economist best known for his controversial publications. His 1991 book, *Agents of Influence*, accused Japan of spending millions of dollars to sway American economic policy. It was widely seen as "Japan-bashing" and caused his dismissal as a \$150,000 consultant to an industrial conglomerate, TRW. In 1993 he and Mr Perot collaborated on a book denouncing the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Mr Dole, whose call for massive tax cuts has proved unappealing, is turning to the "character" issue in an attempt to get his campaign moving. Today he launches a new advertisement that talks of America's "moral crisis" and implicitly blames the President.



Miguel Rodríguez, left, and José de León rescue one-year-old Cassandra Gómez from floodwaters near the Puerto Rican town of Guyama

## Baby is saved as 11 die in hurricane

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

FEROCIOUS floodwaters in Puerto Rico swept eight people to their deaths as Hurricane Hortense battered the Caribbean island.

In the hill town of Guyama, emergency workers slung a rope across a swollen river to rescue a baby whose family's home had been demolished by the flood. Miguel Rodríguez and José de León risked their lives to save Cassandra Gómez, who was then cared for by volunteers. Cassandra, her father and three siblings were saved, but six other members of the family were reported missing.

Three people were killed in landslides after 18in of rain fell in a few hours, and

families trapped by rising waters huddled together on their shanty-house rooftops.

Pedro Rossello, the Governor of Puerto Rico, contacted President Clinton to ask him to declare the island a disaster area, which would allow American federal funds to be used for recovery work.

Hurricane Hortense yesterday veered away from the Dominican Republic and headed north towards the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas.

□ Delhi: Five elephants drowned in a storm-swollen river in eastern India as they chased a three-month-old calf swept away in the current. The calf survived. (AP)

## Miami bribe swoop

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

MIAMI'S powerful city manager, Cesar Odio, and two other men were charged yesterday with bribery and corruption after an undercover investigation by the FBI.

Mr Odio, the chief financial and administrative officer, and the two others are accused of conspiring in a lucrative scheme to obtain kickbacks on contracts involving computers and health insurance for city workers, as well as accepting large bribes. The Cuban-born

Mr Odio, who has held the post since 1985, said he was the victim of a double-cross by government informants.

According to the prosecution, he allegedly conspired to hire a firm to perform unnecessary consultancy work for the city, earning himself a \$5,000 (£3,205) per month commission. Miller Dawkins, the city commissioner, is accused of soliciting a \$100,000 bribe from a computer firm seeking to win a contract.

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# Spanish dig lifts veil on Romans' showgirl theatre

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN CARTAGENA

SPANISH archaeologists have found what is arguably the oldest intact Roman theatre — believed to have been built no later than 4 BC.

The excavation at Cerro de la Concepción, in the centre of this southeastern Spanish city, is directed by Sebastián Ramallo Asensio, a professor of archaeology at the University of Murcia. The city, known to the Romans as Carthago Nova, was captured for Rome in 209 BC by Scipio Africanus.

Working more than 12 hours a day in the dry season for more than four years, Professor Ramallo, his deputy, Elena Ruiz, and their team have slowly unveiled an ancient structure of classical elegance. Built on the gentle slope of a low hill, the theatre would once have seated nearly 6,000 raucous provincials.

"There would not have been any Aeschylus or Sophocles here, for sure," Professor

Ramallo said. The residents, it seems, would have expected pantomime and juggling, and regular performances by semi-naked dancing girls who "showed wanton gestures to the sound of Baetic castanets", in the words of the poet Martial. For all its wealth from mining, fishing and the cultivation of esparto grass, Cartagena, capital of the Spanish Roman province of Citerio, was not then a place of great refinement.

The prosperity of Carthago Nova, however, did ensure the building of the theatre. Extensive epigraphic proof, in the form of tablets and inscriptions, as well as the remarkably well-preserved buildings, have enabled Professor Ramallo to be certain that the theatre could not have been built later than 4 BC.

The key clues to dating the theatre are tablets lauding Augustus's grandsons, Gaius and Lucius; they point to the

year in which the two were nominated by Augustus as his successors, only to die of poison shortly afterwards.

Professor Ramallo said: "Roman theatres were places of propaganda, and Augustus would have ensured that his preference for Gaius and Lucius was displayed at a place like this. The whole hierarchy of society was reflected in the audience — from the well-born who sat on their portable chairs in the orchestra pit to the less well-born, who peered down from the upper reaches of the cavea, or seating tiers."

While the theatre at Pompeii, from 80 BC, is the oldest surviving theatre built by the Romans, it is technically a Graeco-Roman building. Another ancient theatre, the 16 BC structure at Mérida in western Spain, is also Graeco-Roman in style. The earliest of the pure Roman genre are the theatres of Pompey and Marcellus, both in Rome, built in



Professor Sebastián Ramallo and the Roman theatre of Carthago Nova — the locals preferred pantomime and dancing girls to Sophocles

55 BC and 13 BC respectively. But virtually nothing survives today of either. Cartagena, therefore, boasts a treasure: the oldest pure Roman theatre with its original structure still intact. With two-thirds of the

area still unexcavated, the Spanish team has already unearthed several tiers of stone seating, the *pulpitum* or stage, several *vomitoria* or exits, marble capitals, lintels, and the spacious orchestra.

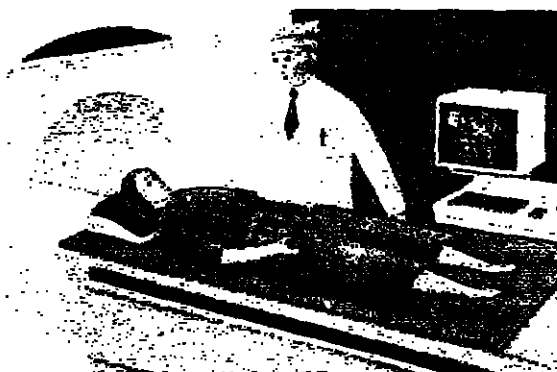
Professor Ramallo said: "The whole area was covered in slums and cheap housing only a few months ago. That has all been knocked down. Those buildings served, through the years, as a kind of protective

layer for the theatre. We may have had to wait to the end of the 20th century to find this place, but that is a happy paradox. Now my team and I can study this ancient site with the most modern methodolo-

gy, whereas much that was valuable would have been lost if it had been worked in a less sophisticated age."

"Cartagena has something incomparable, which all the world will soon come to see."

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WHAT'S NEXT?



One of the magazines that published pictures of a nude Daniel Ducruet embracing the topless stripper

## Monaco Princess wants divorce, lawyer confirms

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE troubled Grimaldi family suffered further blows yesterday, as it was revealed that Princess Stephanie of Monaco wishes to divorce her husband — Daniel Ducruet, her former bodyguard — after intimate photographs showing a naked M Ducruet embracing a topless striptease artist appeared last month in the Italian press.

In an interview published yesterday by *Nice-Matin*, Thierry Lacoite, the Paris lawyer who represents Princess Stephanie and M Ducruet, said the Princess "will very definitely head towards divorce proceedings".

The explicit photographs, which were splashed across the pages of the Milan-based *Gente* and its sister publication *Eva Tremila* on August 27, showed M Ducruet embracing the Belgian stripper, Fly Houteman, 26, beside the swimming pool of a villa she had rented in Villefranche-sur-Mer on the French Riviera.

M Ducruet has taken refuge in Morocco since the publication of the photographs and is not due to return to Monaco until Monday. A meeting has been arranged between the Princess and M Ducruet next week, M Lacoite said.

Princess Stephanie and M Ducruet were married in a civil ceremony in the Mediterranean principality on July 1 last year. The couple already had two children, Louis, born in November 1992 at the maternity hospital named after Princess Grace, Stephanie's mother, and Pauline, born in May 1994.

M Ducruet, 32, who has a reputation as a rough diamond, comes from Beausoleil, a local housing estate. At the time of his marriage, his father, Henri, a former dockworker, was unemployed and his mother, Maguy, known as "Granny Vespa", sold scoot-

ers. M Ducruet married for the first time in 1982 and also has a son, born in 1991, from another liaison. He left school without qualifications and worked as a fishmonger before joining the police in 1988.

Prince Rainier opposed the union for several years. Insiders say that her father eventually gave his approval for the wedding after being won over by reports that M Ducruet had a calming influence on his daughter, who had a reputation for wild living. Since their marriage, Princess Stephanie gave up her career interests in pop music and fashion and settled into the role of devoted wife and model mother. The couple recently announced a joint business venture comprising a boutique and Planet Hollywood-style cafe in the principality.

M Ducruet appeared finally to have been accepted into the Royal Family, standing with them on the palace balcony in November and attending the Red Cross Ball, one of the principality's major social fund-raising events, in August. Now Prince Rainier is understood to be furious at M Ducruet's lack of discretion, the betrayal of his daughter and of the Grimaldi family, and will probably demand that his son-in-law be banished from the family.

Yesterday the Italian magazine *Oggi* published pictures of a bald Princess Caroline, Princess Stephanie's older sister, in the garden of her house in St Rémy-de-Provence, prompting concern over her health and speculation about a breakdown.

The palace confirmed last night that the photographs had not been tampered with but refused to comment on the Princess's health. She was said by a palace insider to be suffering from a "colossal nervous breakdown".

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# The problem with happy pills



**Dr Thomas Stuttford on treating black despair, helping the children who do not grow, animals with a sixth sense and the elderly patients who see strange visions**

The story of the happy pills which turned Susan Hart, hitherto a conventional 50-year-old Devon nurse, into a ravishing belly-dancer, enlivened many people's Sunday morning reading. But it will have made psychiatrists groan in despair.

Mrs Hart, who had had a penchant for belly-dancing for some years, had been depressed before she went on a trip to Africa. Once on holiday, her antidepressants, which her husband said had already been showing signs of making her over-active, continued to work their magic. Freed from the constraints of home life and husband, Mrs Hart devoted herself to belly-dancing. The dancing was too much for Geoff, a Worcester-shire building worker whom she nicknamed Warthog, and in consequence they developed a close liaison.

The story of Mrs Hart illustrates many of the problems doctors face in the treatment of depression. Depression is not a diagnosis in itself, but is a symptom of many different psychiatric diseases. And whatever its cause it is the source of much misery for patients and their families.

At any one time, there are five million sufferers from depression in the United Kingdom. 155 million working days are lost because of it each year, and it costs the country about £4 billion annually. Every year there are 4,500 deaths from suicide, and 60 per cent of depressed patients have a suicidal intent. Depression affects about three times more women than men.

Psychiatrists will not have been amused by the tale of Mrs Hart's African safari, her obsession with belly-dancing, and her attachment to Geoff. Characteris-

tically, depressed patients have little hope for their future, they are dispirited and discouraged, and one of their most entrenched opinions is that no treatment will prove effective, or will be able to restore any enthusiasm for their present life, let alone the future.

The thought that the pills which have been prescribed might at the best be useless, but might even drive them into the arms of Geoff, the Warthog, is unlikely to persuade them to co-operate with taking their pills. Patients should be reassured; doctors are aware that drug therapy may so over-stimulate a

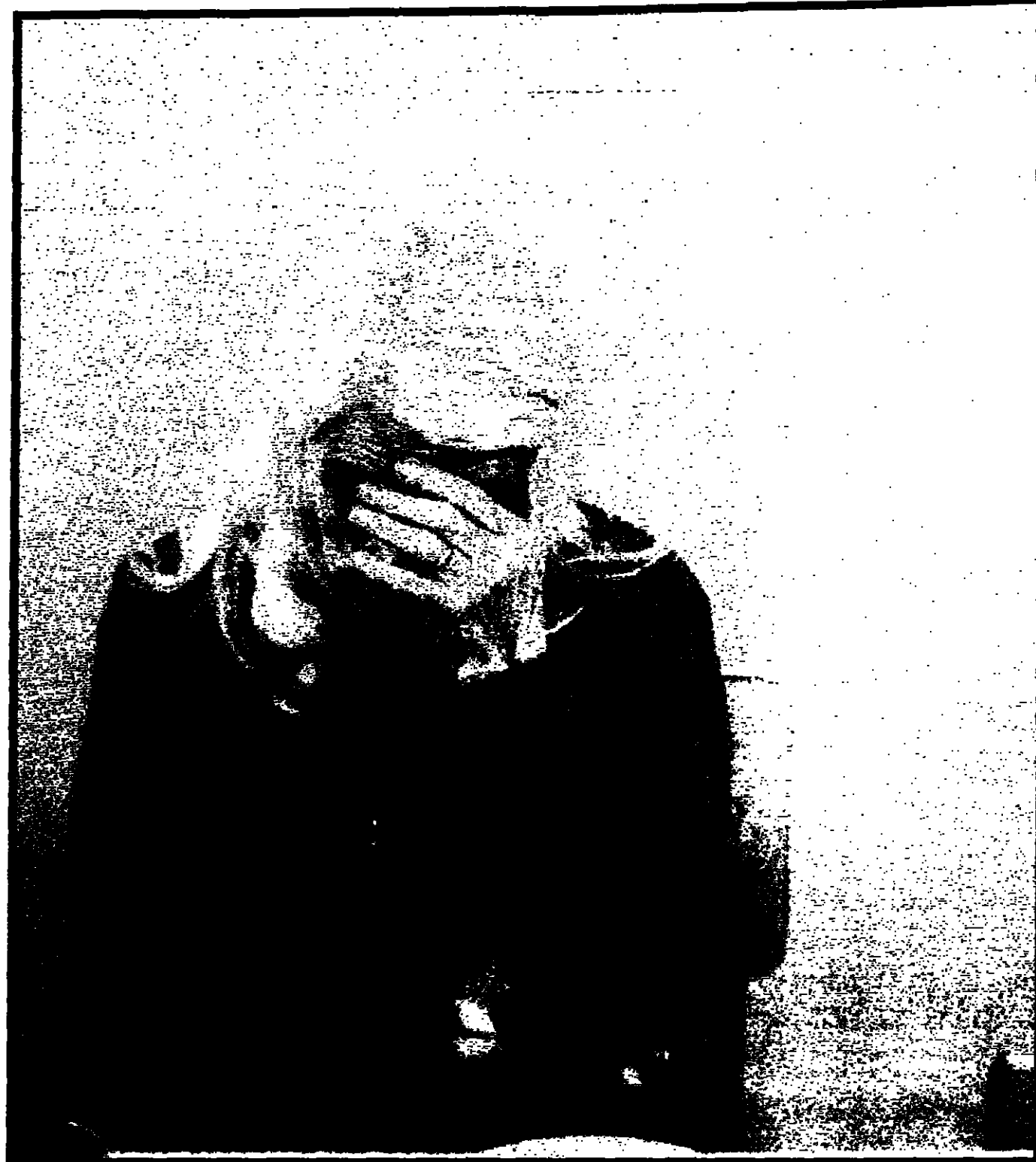
depressed patient that their behaviour becomes irresponsible, and are constantly watching out for it.

Fluoxetine Prozac, at the moment the subject of a well-publicised court case in America, is, in fact, a very useful preparation which has been, and will continue to be, the drug which enables many depressed patients to

live a normal productive life. Prozac is one of the group of antidepressant drugs known as 5HT re-uptake inhibitors. These drugs are safer than the older tricyclic group of antidepressants, for they are less sedative and do not cause the cardiac irregularities which can even be, very occasionally, dangerous to the patient. If taken in overdose, they are less likely to result in a fatality.

The danger of precipitating over-activity when treating patients who are suffering bipolar affective disorder — patients whose mood is apt to swing, sometimes rapidly, from over-excitement to the depths of despair — is well recognised.

The choice of drug if over-activity is to be avoided is all important, and doctors are well advised to follow a standard



Depression is more common in women than in men and is the source of much misery for patients and their families

treatment protocol as, for instance, is used at the Maudsley Hospital, in London.

It is a common mistake to think that all the 5HT re-uptake inhibitors have the same side-effects. In the case of a patient who is so depressed as to be suicidal, but who is not agitated and an insomniac, Prozac might well be

the drug of choice. But it can trigger irresponsible, excitable behaviour, and in someone who showed a potential for this, paroxetine Serenat would be a better choice. Serenat has a more sedative action, and if Mrs Hart had been given this instead of Prozac, she might have cheered up, returned to her husband after

the African trip, and left Geoff in the bush.

Conversely, if Mrs Hart had a busy job to perform, the sedative effect might have made work difficult. Mrs Hart was unusual in that any 5HT re-uptake inhibitor so stimulated her ardour; one of the troubles with these antidepressants is that in about one

case in five, it depresses the libido.

Even this side effect has one potential advantage, given at the correct dosage, 5HT inhibitor drugs can be used to control premature ejaculation, an expensive treatment but one much appreciated by over-enthusiastic patients and their partners.

## Hormone can add to your height

PRINCE William gives every indication that he is going to grow into a tall man. His sudden pubescent growth spurt has left him as tall as his mother, and it seems he will achieve the 4in gain in height which is to be expected in the years when growth is at its maximum.

Growth in most adolescents continues until they are 18, but there are no hard and fast rules. Kendal Carpenter, a former Oxford and England rugby player, was too small and slight to play in his college side when he went up to university at 18, just before the Second World War. When Kendal returned to Oxford afterwards, he was an immense forward.

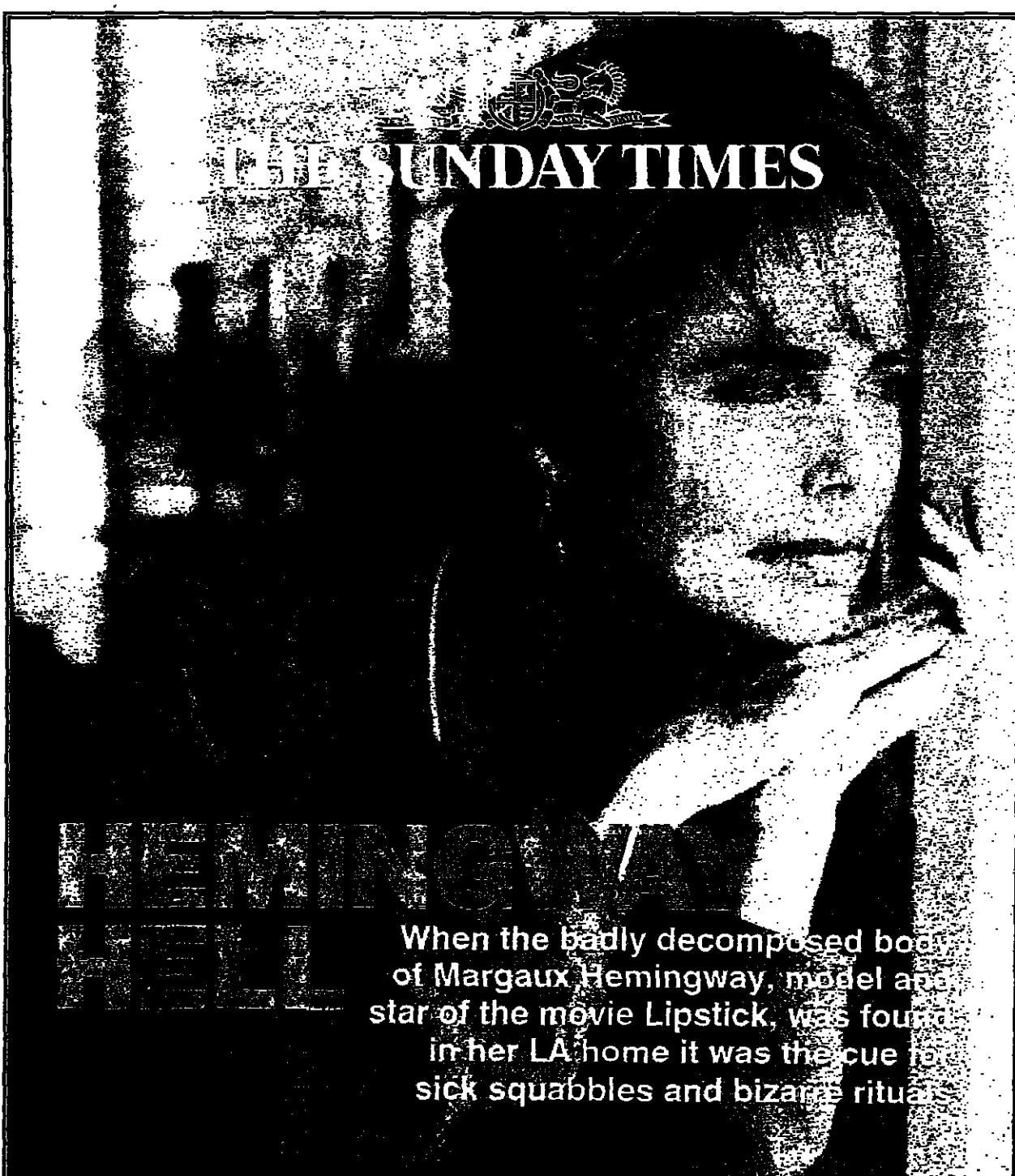
For those boys who are not as fortunate as Prince William and who show signs of remaining abnormally short, the outlook has been improved by the introduction of synthetic human growth hormone. Previously, the preparation of human growth hormone derived from post-mortem specimens had seemed a great advance, and many children who were deficient in it grew with its help and achieved a normal stature. Tragically, its use had terrible consequences as some of those treated later developed Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease.



Somatropin, the modern growth hormone, is made in the laboratory by DNA technology. It is a synthetic hormone and combines the advantages of being identical to natural human growth hormone and being entirely safe. The use of somatropin is accepted in treating children in whom the production of growth hormone by the anterior pituitary, a gland at the base of the brain, is known to be inadequate. All doctors will also agree to its prescription when the sexual organs fail to mature, for there is often a link between growth in height at puberty and sexual maturation.

There are generally approved indications for human growth hormone. It is prescribed, for instance, in cases where growth is stunted because of renal disease and in Turner's Syndrome, which affects one in 3,000 girls. They are short of stature and have a variety of other symptoms, usually a webbed, broad neck, a low hairline on the neck and drooping eyelids. There is a failure to develop reproductive organs. Somatropin, without affecting many of the signs of Turner's, adds an inch or two to height.

There is a controversy in medicine about whether somatropin should be used when a child is small, probably from genetic inheritance, but has no obvious abnormality of the pituitary. Many American doctors regard short stature, even if a familial characteristic, as a grave disadvantage and consider the case for using somatropin permissible, even if its effect is unproven. The jury is still out in Britain.



When the badly decomposed body of Margaux Hemingway, model and star of the movie *Lipstick*, was found in her LA home it was the cue for sick squabbles and bizarre rituals

### HOLY SPOOK

The Pope, the CIA and the Soviet downfall. Carl Bernstein, the Watergate reporter, reveals an astonishing alliance

### BRAGG ART

Melvyn Bragg is the godfather of TV culture. But for how much longer can he refuse offers to leave The South Bank Show

### ZOE HELLER

By the time we hit Palm Springs there was half an inch of sinister black cinders covering the bonnet

The Sunday Times Magazine, this weekend

## Douches and pregnancy

A CONSTANT battle is fought in Britain's genito-urinary medical clinics to dissuade women patients from using bath oils and douches. In women with sensitive skins, these preparations cause symptoms similar to those of mild cystitis. The patients suffer irritation, some inflammation, discomfort on passing urine and even increased urgency and frequency.

Vaginal douches are much beloved by many overseas women. In Britain we think of them as a French or Swiss habit, but they are commonly used in America, particularly by women of Afro-Caribbean origin. The practice of douching would, it might be thought, be hygienic, but nature carries a wonderful self-cleaning operation, and any human interference only acts to its detriment.

The ancient Egyptians were great advocates of douching, and they recommended garlic and wine as a daily routine. The American Journal of Public Health recently reported on a survey, which is also covered by the BMJ, which shows that douches not only cause irritation but also delay pregnancy. Nearly a thousand women who wanted to become pregnant were studied; the study showed that even douching once a week affected the ease of pregnancy.

Ninety per cent of those women who did not use a douche were pregnant within a year, but only 76 per cent of those who douched conceived in this time span.



Many country doctors have witnessed apparent sixth-sense in patients' cats and dogs

## When animals know best

FEW country doctors will need the recently presented evidence to convince them that animals have paranormal powers. When I was in practice in Norfolk, I came across many examples of it, but none was more convincing than the case of the cats in the lonely farmhouse.

One tea-time I received an emergency call to go to a dilapidated farmhouse hundreds of yards off the road on a desolate common. I found

the farmer standing forlornly in his kitchen. The householder was distraught, as he was convinced that disaster had overtaken his wife, and he was so worried that he was unable to climb the rickety stairs to find out how she was. When he had left in the morning, his wife had complained of indigestion, and had told him that she really didn't feel at all well.

There seemed little point in chatting by the kitchen sink,

so I went upstairs, and indeed, just as the husband feared, found his wife dead on her bed. The post-mortem showed that she had died from a heart attack.

The farmer told me that he had feared the worst, "what else would you expect, doctor? All my life the kitchen and the farmyard has been full of cats, and when I came back for my tea, there wasn't one to be seen. They knew something had happened".

## Peculiar visions of the failing-sighted

Many older people who are intelligent and well-adjusted have hallucinations. Some surveys suggest that up to 10 per cent of older people may see them but most are too frightened or proud to mention it. Dr Robert Howard, of the Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital, London, who is a specialist in old age psychiatry, said: "I am treating one patient who sees giant budgerigars the size of swans floating on her TV screen. She sees them even when the set is switched off."

The phenomenon of hallucinations in patients with failing sight was first described by Charles Bonnet (1720-1793). He noticed it in his grandfather, who suffered from hallucinations after cataract surgery even though he remained as bright as a button at 89.

Dr Howard said: once volunteered: "There are probably hundreds of readers of The Times who suffer like Charles Bonnet's grandfather and are worried. They may even mistakenly think they are going

mad. At the Maudsley we are doing research on the Charles Bonnet syndrome and would welcome their inquiries."

Inquiries to Dr Robert Howard, Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, The Institute of Psychiatry, Deerpark, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF

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# Girlfriends, yes, but not sex

**The Runcie Biography:** Humphrey Carpenter covered a wide range of topics in his interviews with the former Archbishop and those who know him, including the state of his health, his effect on women and his memories of John Mortimer

THIS seemed the moment to ask the question I had been steeling myself to put ever since Robert Runcie's references to girlfriends back in Crosby days — the question of his sexual experience.

What, I asked, were the habits of the Army at this time (the 1940s), with this sort of affair, these short-lived romances? Were they expected to lead to bed, or what? "Yes, in most cases," he answered, "but they didn't with me. I was having to rein that in, really. And it created a sort of tension." Why didn't he sleep with

## RUNCIE AND WOMEN

her in a reference to Ingeborg, a girl he had known in Germany after the war? "I don't know why, really. My fellow officers, you know, would say to me, 'I'm normal, you know. I drink, I smoke, and that sort of thing. I remember a particular officer saying that. This was a sign of normality, you see. And they used to go to the Bag o' Nails, which was a great resort (in London, for prostitutes). And indeed, I've been to the

Bag o' Nails myself, just out of interest, you know, and would go to the Four Hundred, which was more respectable, and couldn't afford any of these things, but was a tagger-on. Certainly I think I was unusual there. It may have been some effect of my religious commitment, knowing one would have to confess it, and some fear — I suppose it was more fear of getting the clap then."

I suggested that his abstinence could hardly have been the effect of his upbringing, considering that his parents' fidelity was questionable. "Yes," he answered. "I didn't realise it at the time, but I see now there was a question mark over it." Nor was it as if he had been brought up in strict Presbyterian surroundings. "No. And I mean I'd had girlfriends from the day when I first discovered what you could do in the back row of a cinema. But you have to take my word for this." And it did create quite a tension for him, in the relationship with Ingeborg? "Yes, it did."

## Insomnia, weariness and stress

### STATES OF MIND

Runcie: "I remember saying when I was at Cuddesdon, to Anthony Bird [the chaplain], that I was very fortunate because I didn't ever have depressions, and I wouldn't be mentally ill. And he looked at me with astonishment and said, 'How can you be so sure?' My depressions have been expressed in things like an inability to function effectively, and weariness, and being unable to sleep after four in the morning. And some of the pressures at Lambeth created what was a depressed state."

Carpenter: "I'm surprised you slept at all when you were at Lambeth... the sheer weariness of managerial responsibility." Runcie: "Yes, but I remember the difference between... antidepressants and tranquillisers... because I occasionally had to take tranquillisers, and the doctor used to say to me, 'I won't put you on antidepressants'."

Carpenter: "But you were put on those because of the strain of insomnia and the worries of an enormously responsible job?"

Runcie: "Yes... Lindy's thing was, 'Be humble enough to take a pill'. But I've not had



Robert Runcie in his Scots Guards uniform, left, and wearing a German helmet that he found in a French farmyard



## The threat of cancer

### HEALTH

WHEN I went to see Runcie on April 28, 1994, it transpired that he was worried. He should have been in South Africa, as part of a group of observers monitoring the country's first all-race election, but he had gone into hospital at Easter for a prostate operation, and had developed alarmingly high blood pressure (to which he is prone) and, after surgery, had been told some bad news by the consultant, formerly one of his undergraduates at Trinity Hall.

"He came in to tell me I could go home the next day, and he said, 'The histology's not good, because you've got some cancer in the material we've taken away'. And then he explained that he'd start me off on some treatment. But he's a little bit in awe of the man who was once his tutor, so he's very correct and professional, and I didn't altogether understand the choices he was giving me — you know, you don't when people say, 'Would you like to have it by pills or injection, or you could have a scan'. I said, 'Well, look, Peter, you're the man who knows about these things. I'll do whatever you recommend'."

"And Lindy was told. And I thought, I'll just tell the family, otherwise people will make a big deal of it. And I told one or two close friends, people who pray for me. One of the reasons I didn't want a great deal of publicity about it is that I've been putting a lot of energy into the creation of a hospice care centre. I've raised over a million pounds for it, and it's been a huge local success, and on May 6 it's being opened by the Duchess of Kent. It's going to be called the Runcie-Macmillan Care Centre — just down the road here. And there's a Runcie wing — a geriatric wing! The Mayor of St Albans, who is a good deal younger than me, had cancer during the year, and she said, 'I want everybody to know that I've had cancer and that I'm going to work for good causes for cancer'. And that's all right eventually, you know, but it's a bit hard on your family. Because it would be such a

media focus, and the drama of opening the thing I'd built and might need to use myself."

I suggested that, though some malignant cells had been found, it scarcely amounted to full-blown cancer. "Yes, you're right — I went to see my doctor yesterday, and he said, 'I'd like to tell you that I've got patients who've been coming to me for years and years for this injection. And you're not to fold up'."



Parishioners at Cuddesdon were treated to musical entertainments by the Runcies

RUNCIE had told me [that his wife had had] a bruising romance before he came along. "Huh!" exploded Lindy. "It wasn't 'bruising'. I've seen him once or twice recently. I mean, he's very like Robert, same sort of lost little boy, you know... That's what women fall for. Robert's not allowed to go on a Swan Hellenic Cruise

## OL' BLUE EYES

without me! These lonely widows, or divorcees... Some of them are an absolute pain in the neck."

They think he fancies them? "Well, he's so kind, and he looks at you with those blue eyes — Ol' Blue Eyes! — and you feel he's

really interested in you. Of course, he's thinking of something else at the same time, or wishing they'd go away. If one is making a complete ass of herself, I've said to her, 'It's so sad because so-and-so thinks she's madly in love with Robert... It's such a pity, because really he's not interested in anybody — except me'."

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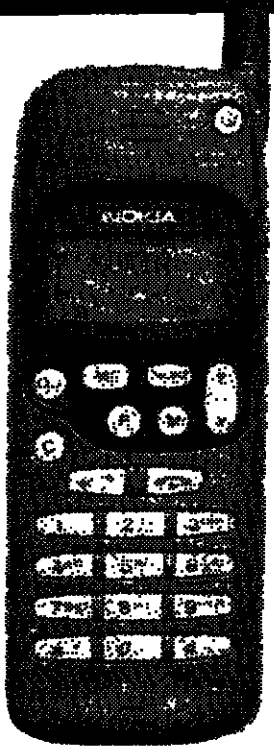
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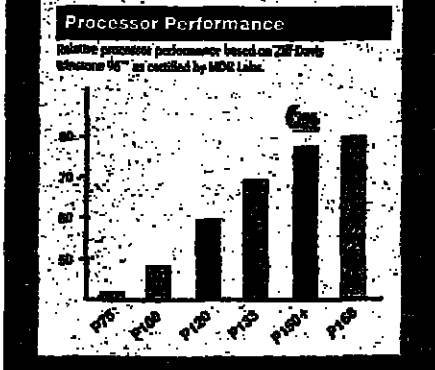
**Runcie under attack**

'One of my predecessors was beaten to death by mutton bones. I think I'm more likely to be battered by the media'



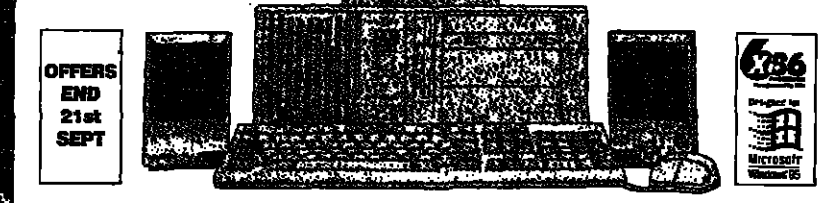
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# Designer babies? Not at my lab

Britain's foremost IVF doctor, Robert Winston, defends the screening of embryos for cancer

We can now screen an embryo for cancer-causing genes, within days of fertilisation. This process uses a procedure called preimplantation diagnosis, and involves IVF. To allow embryo screening, the production of many eggs is first stimulated. The eggs are collected and fertilised. Once any embryos have divided into about eight cells, usually three days after fertilisation, they are placed under a microscope. Using exquisitely fine glass tubing, a hole is drilled into the embryo and one or two cells are sucked out for analysis.

At the eight-cell stage of embryonic growth, each cell is totipotent — that is, each cell contains the messages needed to make a human being. Theoretically, an eight-cell embryo divided into its eight constituent cells could make identical octuplets. Consequently, removal of one or two cells for testing carries no apparent risk of damaging the remaining embryo. This technique was first used in 1990, when cells were removed after IVF to test for the sex of the embryo. This was to help couples who might have a baby which, if male, could suffer a sex-linked disorder such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Sufferers from this wasting disorder, which affects only boys, are often confined to a wheelchair by the age of ten, and usually die in their teens because their muscles are so weak they cannot even breathe.

In 1992, the first babies were born after specific testing for cystic fibrosis. Since then, there has been screening for about six different very serious genetic diseases, and babies have been born to couples who have previously had a child die from an inherited disorder.

Although preimplantation diagnosis has been dismissed by some as "mere eugenics", families carrying these genes had, until this treatment, only a few invidious choices. They could play "Russian roulette" and conceive repeatedly, hoping eventually to have a normal baby. Alternatively, they could elect to use contraception and have no children. Most had antenatal testing of established pregnancies, opting for termination of fully formed fetuses of 11-18 weeks if investigations such as amniocentesis tested positive. Many families feel it is morally and psychologically better to screen embryos at the earliest stages than to abort a formed foetus.

Recently, research at University College London, and at Hammersmith, has extended the application of preimplantation diagnosis to families who carry a strong predisposition to certain cancers. A limited number of genes are known to cause bowel or breast cancer by about the age of 30. One patient at risk has seen five young women in her family suffer breast cancer: she herself has had both breasts removed prophylactically to try to forestall the disease. She wants to have her embryos screened rather than have her children suffer the anxieties she experiences. Such screening — which is closely monitored by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority — would not only avoid this, but would also prevent this cancer in future generations.

Such screening raises moral

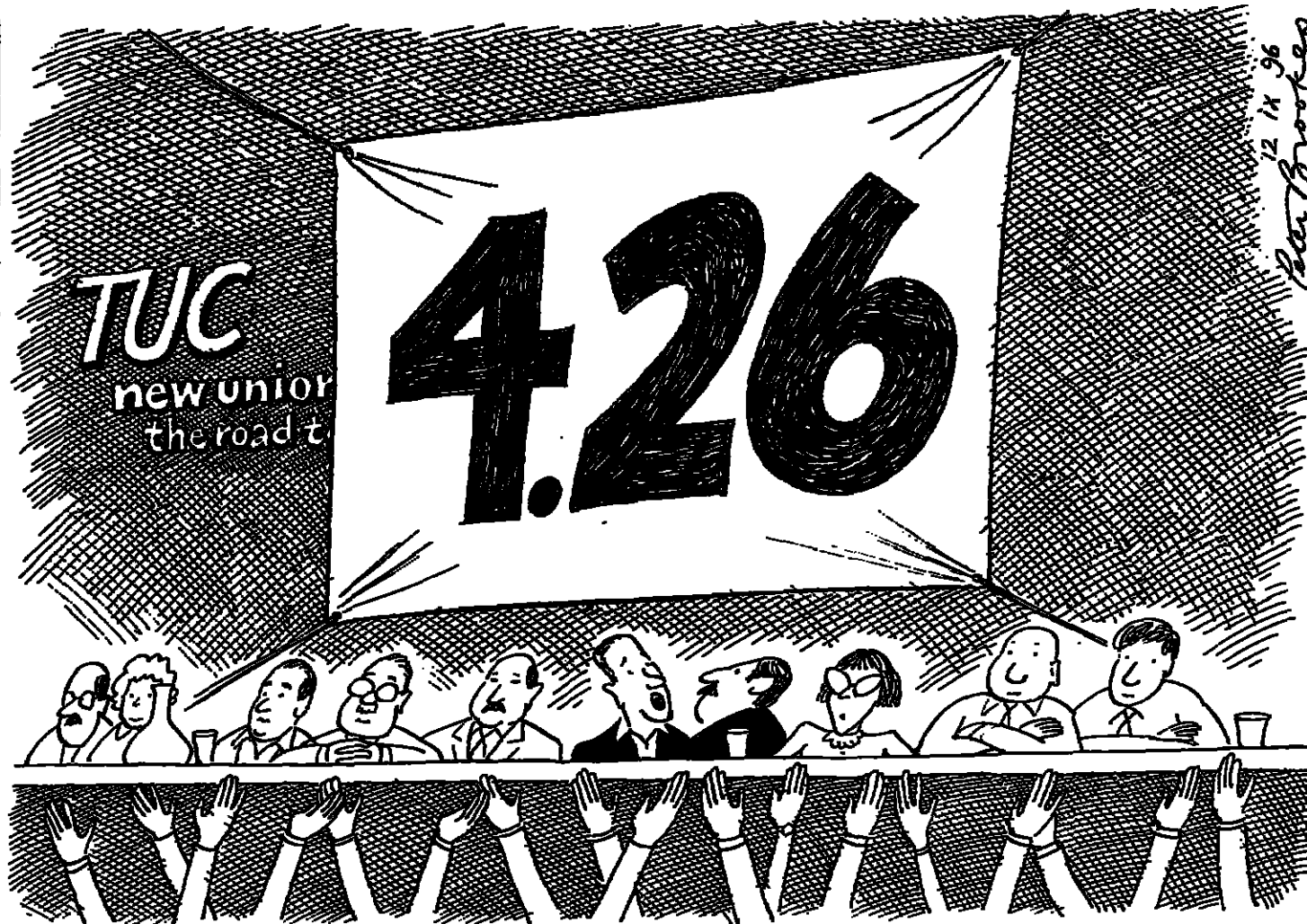
dilemmas. After all, children carrying these genes might have a healthy and productive life until their thirties. Thereafter they have a 90 per cent chance of developing a particularly virulent form of cancer. But in screening these potential people while they are still embryonic, we could be destroying an Emily Brontë. However, nature itself screens embryos continuously. Many embryos carrying defects are lost spontaneously. For example, the genetic disease Turner's syndrome results in women being very short in stature. They fail to develop normally, do not menstruate and are sterile. None of these defects prevents them living full and useful lives. Studies of miscarriages show that the disease is very common in early pregnancy, but 98 per cent of embryos with Turner's do not survive. Nature sheds most Turner's embryos during the first ten weeks.

Doctors like me are accused of wanting to make designer babies. It is frequently said that while embryo testing may be reasonable to prevent serious birth defects, we are on a slippery slope. What is to stop us choosing embryos with "desirable" characteristics, such as intelligence, strength, beauty, aggression, or even rude good health? Such questions show ignorance of genetics. Characteristics like this, when genetically determined at all, require the interaction of many genes. It is unthinkable that we could screen a single embryonic cell for more than a sole gene trait in the foreseeable future. Even analysis of one gene defects usually poses problems. For example, it is true that we can now screen an embryonic cell for the specific gene causing muscular dystrophy, rather than just testing for sex. However, more

than 350 varying defects in the chemistry of that one gene can cause this terrible disease. A family at risk of muscular dystrophy might have any one of those chemical defects, and to detect it a different chemical procedure is needed. This is one reason why screening of the whole population for most genetic disorders is not feasible. The idea that we could greatly alter the gene pool, or more marginally reduce the incidence of genetic disease, is fanciful.

Some believe that life begins at conception and that all life is sacrosanct. I respect that view but do not share it. I am an orthodox Jew, and my faith regards human life as sacred. Nonetheless, in my faith, an invisible fertilised egg with only limited developmental potential is seen to have a different moral status from a formed foetus. This view, shared by many Christians, has led to wide acceptance of many popular methods of contraception and it is why many of my patients opt for preimplantation diagnosis. In a pluralistic society it is reasonable to allow individuals to take decisions which affect only them and their families. Spurious arguments about practising eugenics, about slippery slopes, and about designer babies, are a poor reason to prevent work doing much to promote healthy life.

Professor Lord Winston is Professor of Fertility Studies at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital.



"IT'S EITHER THE MINIMUM WAGE OR BLAIR'S FIRST TRAIN HOME..."

## The Prince of Peace

Nowadays the Good Lord looks more like Gandhi than W.G. Grace

different way, is now generally seen as uncharitable and anti-Christian.

There are some people in the Church of England who share this ecumenical view, but nevertheless fear that Prince Charles may be a bit too ecumenical. That he has adopted what the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie unguardedly called "a Laurens van der Post spirituality". Yet any thoughtful person, growing up in the middle of the 20th century, was likely at least to consider the more mystical spirituality which Laurens van der Post derived partly from Jung.

When he was an undergraduate at Cambridge, Harry Williams, who greatly impressed Rab and Mollie Butler when Rab was Master, had himself been influenced by Jung. His mystical beliefs later led to his withdrawal into Anglican monastic life.

Many Anglicans know surprisingly little of the mystical tradition of their own Church. No one who has read the literature of the post-Reformation period can fail to be impressed by the influence of St Augustine on the early English reformers. In the 17th century there were the Cambridge Platonists as well as the example of Jeremy Taylor; in the 18th century, wrongly thought to be a period of deep Anglican slumbers, there was the mysticism of Bishop Berkeley and of William Law. "Mysticism" itself may be much misunderstood in Britain: certainly the word is often misinterpreted to mean little more than other-worldly, or even irrational. The Anglican mystical tradition is something quite different: it expresses the closeness to the presence of God of very saintly men.

One could not possibly argue that a knowledge of this mystical tradition, or an attraction to it, is un-Anglican. Nor is this a merely antiquarian interest. In the 20th century, there have been not only the works of Harry Williams him-

self and Dean Inge, but the scholarly writings on mysticism of Evelyn Underhill. The Anglican mystical tradition is among the most beautiful of the historic virtues of the Church of England. If Prince Charles finds that attractive, it certainly does not make him less fit to be the Supreme Governor of the national Church.

Does it also apply to his interest in other religions? Lord Runcie, whose indiscretions, like most fragments of truth, are more valuable than damaging, apparently thought it odd, or at least un-Anglican, for Prince Charles to be interested in the Hindus. But of course Hinduism is very interesting. In some ways it belongs to the innocent childhood of mankind's religious development; it has the child's vividness of perception of spiritual reality; it has a unique pluralism, a sense that there are many truths: it comes before the European Enlightenment — and its leaves have not been blighted by the canker of Voltaire.

Father Bede Griffiths, a Benedictine monk who lived in an Indian ashram, expressed his belief that Christianity needs Hinduism in his book *The Marriage of East and West*. He saw the West as masculine, aggressive and rational, and the East as feminine, non-violent and intuitive. Would we really prefer Prince Charles to return to the age in which Churchill called Mahatma Gandhi "a half-naked fakir"?

I have never discussed religion with Prince Charles, but his public statements make it reasonably clear what he has come to believe. He thinks that spiritual reality is the most important aspect of life, compared with which all other things, the struggles of human existence, are secondary. He thinks that human beings only ever obtain glimpses of this ultimate reality, but that some human beings see much further than others. He thinks these glimpses can be recognised in all the great religions, and

have been shown at all times and to all peoples: the sheer opacity of human perception shuts us out from perfect understanding. He also believes that man's kinship with the rest of the natural world helps him to understand the spiritual.

These are now orthodox Christian beliefs, even if they would not have been regarded as orthodox a century or two ago. They are compatible with the belief that Jesus was unique in His relationship with God, and that the Gospels are a unique revelation of truth. There are elements in other religions which reflect the same truths, even if the mysteries are too profound for human understanding.

These issues of faith present themselves to anyone who is seriously interested in religion. Prince Charles has this strong religious interest: he has thought about it deeply for most of his life. He has discussed it with people like Harry Williams and Laurens van der Post, who have helped to develop his understanding. He has come to certain views, which have the great merit of being broad and ecumenical. He has formed what appears to be a mature faith when too many people have lost their faith, or retained a simplistic one, not choosing to confront these questions.

No Anglican clergyman who has gone through theological college in the past 30 years could be in the least surprised by Prince Charles's intellectual journey. So far as one can tell, he has come to rather more orthodox Anglican conclusions than some Anglican theologians themselves. He may well feel that the organisational structures of the churches are not very important: I doubt if Jesus Christ would have wanted to spend much time attending the Anglican Synod or the Roman Curia. Churches have to have bureaucracies, but they are the bottles and the spirit is the wine.

Perhaps the real difficulty is that Prince Charles believes in God in too contemporary a way, after having thought the questions through for himself. All church structures are by their nature old-fashioned. It might be more comfortable if Prince Charles still believed in the God of his great-grandfather's time, seen as a bearded English gentleman, benevolently visiting the tenants on his estate. Unfortunately, the Good Lord nowadays looks more like Mahatma Gandhi than W.G. Grace.

William Rees-Mogg

## Nazi gold: the FO is too smug

Magnus Linklater says secrecy is not just a Swiss vice

The Foreign Office came rather well out of its report on looted Nazi gold. Here, it appeared, was refreshing openness about the murky past, a diligent search for the truth, and a welcome opportunity to have another go at Swiss banks and their obsessive secrecy. When the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, travels to Zurich next week he will be on a mission impeccable: battling for the return of billions of dollars-worth of Jewish gold still held by those intransigent gnomes.

Unfortunately, behind him and his team will trail the unmistakable whiff of hypocrisy. What the Government now presents as fresh disclosure is nothing of the sort. The report itself is a rehearsal of facts that have been in the public domain since 1972 (I read most of them in a book called *Hitler's Gold* some 20 years ago). There is no new revelation, no unpublished document. It is certainly not evidence of a renewed determination to extract more gold from Swiss bank vaults, despite the way it has been presented. Indeed, it suggests that little has changed since 1946, when the Allies accepted less than \$130 million worth of Nazi gold and agreed to waive all further claims against the Swiss Government. Everyone recognised at the time that there was more to be had — indeed a Swiss banking official let slip that the banks might be holding as much as \$500 million of suspect gold. But the main conclusion then, and for 50 years, was that something was better than nothing.

Subsequent events have shown that, however expedient, this was a less than honourable course of action. Over the years, the Swiss have reluctantly released small amounts of additional gold under pressure from Jewish organisations or individuals, but never as a result of American or British government action. Pressure for more accountability by Swiss banks has come either as a result of US Senate hearings or from some brave voices in Switzerland itself, but so far it has been headed off by the powerful Swiss bank lobby.

The Swiss can legitimately be pilloried for this, though it should perhaps be remembered that the banking secrecy laws were originally passed in the 1930s to help persecuted Jews to protect their savings. But the Foreign Office must accept that its own obsessive secrecy over wartime documents has ensured a climate of deep suspicion about anything involving its own role vis-à-vis the Jews and their treatment at the hands of the Nazis.

One misconception has to be cleared up, however: suggestions by various newspapers and by Greville Janner, MP, whose questions prompted the report, that the Bank of England is also withholding Nazi gold are false. The five tons of gold it holds, and the rather smaller amount in the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, are there for distribution to the central banks of various countries who claim it. Albania is next in line for restitution, and thereafter ten other countries are due to be paid back.

Yet the reparations work remains secret. The Tripartite Gold Commission, set up in 1946 to negotiate and oversee distribution of Nazi gold, has never published its accounts. Despite the bland assertion in the Foreign Office report that "details of its work have been given periodically to Parliament", no such details have ever been forthcoming. Malcolm Rifkind, as a junior Foreign Office minister in 1984, did state the amounts of gold currently held in London and New York (\$60.7 million and \$24 million respectively), but that is all.

The three-man commission is run by a retired diplomat, Emrys Davies, and has representatives from Britain, France and America. It is not responsible to any single government, and has never been required to publish its proceedings. Yet, over the years it has handed out millions of pounds worth of gold to various countries, and there is still about \$80 million to be distributed.

So the commission faces some sensitive issues: how to deal with Serbia, which should be in line for a share of Yugoslavia's gold, but which is currently shielding a clutch of war criminals; how Czechoslovakia should be dealt with now it has split in two; and whether Italy, an Axis power for most of the war, really deserves its share.

France, it appears, behaved with commendable speed in repaying gold to Belgium and Luxembourg which had been stolen by the Nazis and held in Dakar; as a result it too will be a recipient, despite being a member of the commission.

At its office in Brussels, the commission has a full record of its proceedings since 1946. Yet the last time it reported (secretly, of course) to its employer-governments was 25 years ago. So when Mr Rifkind sits down with his opposite number, he should not be surprised if the answer is: *et tu quoque?*

## Outflanked

CHOOSING a speaking slot for Michael Portillo at next month's Conservative Party conference is exercising Tory planners.

Last year, the Defence Secretary muddled a slickly organised event with his macho "Who Dares Wins" speech. The Left of the party went bananas, and even Portillo's fans, such as Baroness Thatcher, found the performance a little too rich. The Prime Minister, said aides at the time, was not aware of the content of Portillo's speech before

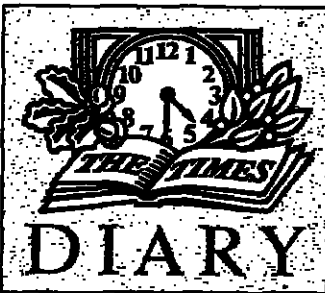
he gave it, and found himself having to give it an awkward endorsement.

This year the Tories think they have hit upon a solution: put Portillo's speech in between those of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, on the Thursday of the conference. Right-wing Portillo will be sandwiched between the Cabinet's foremost Contrasts. The Prime Minister will speak on the following morning. The hope is that this flanking action will lessen the impact of any excessively butch Portillo rhetoric.

Conservative Central Office is keeping a white-knuckled grip on its provisional conference agenda, denying that it even exists. Another senior Tory source, however, says: "If they tell you they don't know when ministers are speaking, they are being rather economical with the truth."

### Vamping

I'M DELIGHTED to see that my ghoulish friend Christopher Lee is to return to the screen as the arch-villain Lucas De Beaumanoir in



the BBC's new adaptation of Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*. I'm only surprised to find he has time for the project, for he is involved in another testing venture: making a record of his favourite Wagner hits.

Just as the novelist Catherine Cookson is launching a new career as a singer — at age 90 — with the release of her favourite songs on CD, so Christopher Lee, 74, has come to the music business late in the day. Last year he appeared in a concert with Dame Gwyneth Jones, but restricted himself to narration. Now he plans to sing. "I am not having any coaching," he warned. "It's too late for that."

### Old friends

AFTER a hearty meal with his sister Lady Violet Powell yesterday in Soho's left-wing lunching spot the

Gay Hussar, Lord Longford wandered the red dining room talking to old friends.

He chatted at length of his wife's planned 90th birthday celebrations today in the House of Lords. Returning eventually to his seat, however, he noticed that Lady Violet had gone. "I've lost my sister," he muttered. "Disappeared completely. Never mind. I'll meet her soon in the next world."

News to churn John Major's stomach. Within seven weeks of its publication, David Heathcoat-



Amory, the former Paymaster General who resigned over the single currency in July, has sold out 10,000 copies of his book *A Single Currency: Why the United Kingdom Must Say No*. A second print run of 10,000 should ensure availability in time for the Tory conference.

### Buzz zzz

A BUSY news day in the Yorkshire Dales, to judge from an account of a wasp entering a shop in last Friday's *Craven Herald and Pioneer*: "An insect looking like something out of a horror movie plagued a Skipton shop. The bug arrived at photo shop Maple Leaf Images, in Sheep Street, on Monday. Thought to be a wood wasp, with distinctive yellow and black stripes, the insect was buzzing around customers, causing one woman to leave the shop altogether. The wasp was killed and staff put it in the freezer."

### Slinger hook

PANIC has set in at the Queen Charlotte's Ball, for one of the gels has been injured by a marauding wild boar. There is now no chance of her gliding serenely in the professional crocodile at the ball on



Ballgoers of old

Monday — her leg is in plaster. Kate Slinger sustained her injury while trekking in Indonesia. The huge tusked boar rushed out of a forest and charged. She escaped a goring, but was felled and will be on crutches for the event.

"Frightfully inconvenient," says an organiser. "Crutches and a ballgown do not go together. And, worse still, she can't get her satin shoes on."

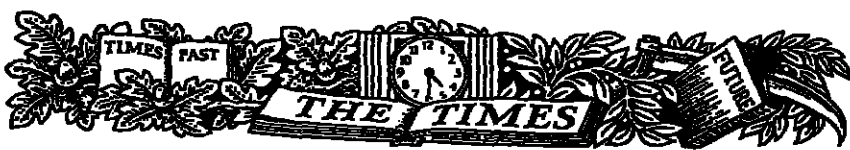
P.H.S



Defensive moves

هكذا من الأصل





## LOVE OF LABOUR LOST

Beer and sandwiches are not the food of a good relationship

This time three years ago, a Labour leader stood up at a Trades Union Congress conference and promised the earth in return for trade union support for party reforms. One of the Labour politicians most concerned about John Smith's blatant *quid pro quo* was the then Shadow Home Secretary, Tony Blair. Now, when Mr Blair goes to TUC conferences, the emphasis is on what a Labour government would not give the unions. It is a sign of how much has changed in the past three years that even Rodney Bickerstaffe, left-wing general secretary of Unison, the public-sector workers' union, described the £4.26 an hour minimum wage agreed on yesterday at the TUC as merely a "bid".

This is a far healthier relationship than in the days of John Smith. Trade unionists may attempt to secure good pay and conditions for their workers; but the job of a government is to govern for the whole country. There is no reason why the unions should not ask for more money from a Labour government, just as there is no reason why a Labour government should not say no to the demand. Everyone at Blackpool yesterday knew that Mr Blair would never concede a minimum wage as high as £4.26 an hour: this was merely a bargaining position.

In the old days there would have been an attempt to make it Labour Party policy. But Mr Blair is having some success in trying to distance his party from the unions, to make Labour more like the American Democrats, to whom the unions give money but with whom they have only limited institutional influence. There is something in this for the unions too. Many potential members are actively put off joining unions because they do not want to be part of a political organisation; they merely want support at the workplace.

But, despite the emergence of a generation of younger, more moderate trade union

leaders, there is still a handful of unions whose executives are dominated by people who are so left-wing that they would not be allowed to be Labour Party members. Among these are the RMT rail union, the Transport and General Workers' Union and Unison. Factions of "tankies" also exist in MSF and the UCU communications union. Yesterday Alan Johnson, the Blairite leader of the UCU, was forced to dismiss Mr Blair's calls for a second ballot of postal workers as "a waste of time and money" — a statement that sounded frankly incredible coming from him, but which must have been forced upon him by the narrow majority of hardliners on his executive.

Labour is now taking a harder line on what David Blunkett, Shadow Employment Secretary, described earlier this week as "armchair revolutionaries". Many of the newer Labour MPs, Mr Blunkett among them, had to deal with intransigent unions when they ran local councils. The experience put iron in their souls and they do not intend to repeat it in government, particularly given the probable state of the public finances. The attraction of Mr Blunkett's suggestion that unions should ballot their members whenever a significant new offer is made in a dispute is that the extremists on trade union executives can be bypassed.

Labour itself has gone through this process by adopting one-member-one-vote for most party decisions. The time has come for trade unions to do the same. Public sympathy with strikes has diminished hugely in the past decade or so, particularly if they inconvenience consumers. And strikers rarely gain from their actions, particularly in the long term. Some trade union leaders are well aware of the need for serious reform in the way that their internal affairs are run. The others will soon realise, as their membership withers, that accountability is a prerequisite of survival.

## ADVANTAGE SADDAM

The Allies require a northern strategy

Massoud Barzani's military control of northern Iraq may not endure, but for now his rout of the rival forces of Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan is virtually complete. He may think that he can escape the consequences of the devil's pact he has made with Saddam Hussein, that the Iraqi President is sincere in his honeyed words of "pardon" for Iraq's four million Kurds and his careful references to the "autonomous" status of Iraqi Kurdistan. The thousands of Kurdish civilians who have fled to the border with Iran must hope that Mr Barzani has gambled well and that Iraq's secret police keep their distance.

Nothing could be less sure. In Arbil, before the US strikes, Iraqi forces combed the city, destroying the headquarters of the Iraqi National Congress which, with Western support, has tried to unite the forces of opposition to Saddam. At least a hundred INC people were butchered. With his tanks and artillery camped outside Arbil, Saddam has exposed the limits to the guarantees offered them under the US-led Operation Provide Comfort. Vengeance can wait.

If America and its allies confine their response to further missile strikes against Iraqi anti-aircraft batteries south of Baghdad — which is all that Washington has suggested so far — Saddam will tighten the screws on northern Iraq. What this could mean, on past precedent, is the revival of Saddam's long-term campaign of extermination — as Mr Barzani, 8,000 of whose followers were abducted from concentration camps by Saddam in 1983 and almost certainly massacred, should know from experience. It was when Saddam again turned on the Kurds in 1991, this time with gas, that the United Nations Security Council passed its seminal Resolution 688.

Saddam's repression of his own people is no less a threat to peace and security now

than it was then. Since 1991, the Kurds have owed their relative safety to Operation Provide Comfort, a combination of international relief, aerial surveillance by American, French and British aircraft and the implied allied threat that Iraq's forces would be bombed if they moved. There are only two constructions to put on the American assertions that the 40,000 troops and 450 tanks Saddam sent into Arbil went undetected. Either US Intelligence was hopelessly incompetent, or the Pentagon was too fearful of losing a single aircraft to pre-empt Iraq's attack. Cruise missiles have value but do not stop armies in their tracks.

Saddam will now show only the restraint he believes he must. Reconciliation between the Kurdish factions, which the Americans had attempted, is still worth pursuing but will be meaningless unless Baghdad abides by its word on Kurdish autonomy. Perhaps a third of Saddam's 1,400 tanks are in the Arbil region; President Clinton's next ultimatum should be to move them, and the Republican Guards, well south of the 36th parallel. That should be coupled with clear warning that any atrocities against Iraq's Kurds will expose Saddam's military infrastructure to devastating attack.

Such moves will be credible only if Mr Clinton is prepared to deploy manned airpower should Saddam refuse. This would entail some risk of a lucky hit against an American aircraft. Mr Clinton's "southern strategy" has cornered Saddam more tightly south of Baghdad. Iraqi attempts to defy that new zone should be met with appropriate force. But that strategy needs a northern complement. Containment of Saddam has to be multidimensional. Every refugee who leaves northern Iraq represents a victory for him; if the flow becomes a flood, it will also constitute just the regional crisis that Resolution 688 rightly sought to prevent.

## LE TAN C'EST MOI

Chirac turns sun lotion King

Sleek, smooth, svelte — smarmy: the image of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary has rarely varied over the ages. Kings and presidents entrust their representatives overseas with their secrets, their stratagems and their peccadilloes. The perfect envoy, it was accepted even in Elizabethan days, must not only lie abroad for his country; he must, by his very mien and demeanour, represent the mood and machinations of his monarch. But rarely has he been asked to look like his master. The French Government, however, has now issued a decree that has sent a frisson of bemused incredulity throughout the French diplomatic corps: the 200 men who have the honour to represent the Elysée abroad must be elegant, *soigné*, and boasting a tan as radiant as if the Sun King had just left the ski slopes. They must, in other words, be the living image of President Chirac himself.

There is something less than French about this official definition of masculine elegance. M Chirac, long an admirer of *le marketing américain*, has fallen for America's corporate style, and has asked Jacques Séguéla, a noted image-maker, to examine the Quai d'Orsay's sartorial standards.

What does this say about the self-confidence, *hauteur* and sense of history in the French diplomatic corps — the paradigm of effortless duplicity, *rapier repartee* and

sneering superiority that has long made it the most feared and admired in the world? What would Richelieu or Talleyrand have made of it? The French diplomat, it was assumed, was, above all, a formidable mind, a man for whom diplomacy was warfare pursued by other means. No matter if he was perfumed or corpulent, so long as he kept a fine table, served the best wines and obtained the most closely guarded secrets.

Hélas, times have changed. No longer is French the lingua franca of the world's chanceries. No longer does the French Ambassador enjoy the finest residence or boast the most delicate lace. He must, like all other envoys today, sell his country, boost its exports and make the necessary concessions to passing fashion and custom. If this means that he should remain slim, fit and a fine model for the top Parisian fashion houses, so be it. He may, conveniently, also give an impression that he has just flown in from the sun-drenched French possessions overseas, or left his elegant villa on the Riviera. M Chirac found that sleek hair and a well-cut suit did wonders for his election campaign, and believes that selling French influence overseas needs the same attention to detail. The envoys themselves may regret that an image from GQ counts for more nowadays than IQ. But as the Roi Soleil himself observed, "Le tan, c'est moi."

From the General Secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union

Sir, It hardly comes as a great surprise that Lord Hanson won't be betting on Labour ("Why I can't do business with Blair", September 10), but I would have expected a slightly more informed piece than the mishmash of tired sloganising we were treated to. Nothing is more revealing — or indeed depressing — than Lord Hanson's comment that Labour's plan to invest in education and training would be taking "yet more cash from the productive sector of the economy". With attitudes like that, it is no wonder we have such a poor record on skills development compared with our international competitors.

Labour's plans, announced in its draft manifesto (reports and leading article, July 5), for a University for Industry to enhance workplace skills and for "individual learning accounts" to meet the cost of training would help to tackle this central weakness in our economy; but it will take commitment by employers, backed up by investment, to make them happen.

When Labour is in government, will Lord Hanson contribute to his employees' individual learning accounts? And will he support them if they wish to study with the University for Industry?

In short, will he "do the business" on training?

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER LYONS,  
General Secretary, MSF,  
MSF Centre,  
33-37 Moreland Street, ECI,  
September 10.

From the Shadow Minister for Small Business

Sir, Lord Hanson's sneering remarks about Labour's positive policies for small businesses are typical of the party he supports. The Conservative Party's remaining idea, as the general

election approaches, is to knock ours.

The small businesses whose heads I meet are fed up to the back teeth with this Government's policies: rising taxes — 11 since the last election; increasing red tape — the new Asylum Act will cost small firms £125 million and make them responsible for employees' immigration status; and poor government performance — the Treasury paid 14 per cent of its bills late last year.

After a long process of consultation with industry Labour has put forward in its manifesto for business sensible and innovative ideas to help small businesses become more competitive. Lord Hanson doesn't like them, but Mr Stephen Alaburris, of the Federation of Small Businesses, commented at Labour's London Conference on September 4: "There has been a lot that is positive for small businesses and they are now prepared to listen to Labour."

Yours sincerely,  
BARBARA ROCHE,  
House of Commons,  
September 10.

From the Shadow Secretary for Education and Employment

Sir, I was surprised and taken aback by Lord Hanson's attack on Labour's education policies.

Labour authorities are leading the way in raising standards. Last week Gillian Shephard took up the Labour-controlled Birmingham council's idea of baseline assessment of children upon entry into primary school (reports and leading article, September 4) which has spread to Barnsley, Newcastle upon Tyne and Sheffield.

Lord Hanson appears not to be aware that I have set out our agenda for boosting achievement in literacy and numeracy. I made our proposals on classroom management and teaching methods at the National Association of Headteachers' conference on May 30. I have been rigorous in setting out proposals for quality and

standards at teacher conferences over the Easter period.

We are committed to ensuring that all teachers are able to teach the basics and are skilled in classroom management. Professor Michael Barber, of London University's Institute of Education, is chairing a task force which is working towards a target for every child (Education, May 31). By the end of a second term of a Labour government all children leaving primary school (except those with special needs) will have reached a reading age of at least 11.

Raising standards for all our children is the cornerstone of our education policies.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID BLUNKETT,  
House of Commons,  
September 10.

From Mr Peter Ruck

Sir, Lord Hanson clearly states why he feels unable to do business with any administration led by Tony Blair. Perhaps the most interesting question is whether he can do business with a future government led by John Major?

The Conservatives' record in recent years is less than impressive. We are told that Britain now enjoys one of the lower rates of unemployment in Europe, but many of those employed have been able to secure only part-time employment. We were assured that under a Conservative administration taxes would fall. They have risen for many within the working population.

The Government is also riven by dissent over how we should position ourselves within Europe. Surely clear thinking and straight talking are necessary. Whom does Lord Hanson recommend we vote for?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER RUCK,  
Garden Cottage, Abinger Hall,  
Abinger Hammer, Dorking, Surrey,  
September 10.

## Bad hair day

From Captain Paul Hamilton, Church Army

Sir, If the Church of England's "Bad hair day" poster campaign does not reflect the real meaning of Christmas (letters, September 7) then it's worth noting that the traditional campaigns do not either.

Year after year we see beautifully clean and tidy stable scenes with the Christ child and a Mary who looks as if she's been at a beauty parlour rather than riding for miles on a donkey before giving birth. The miracle of Christmas must be that God chose to be born in filthy, smelly and ordinary surroundings.

The "Bad hair day" campaign takes nothing away from the Christmas message and is more likely to reach those who would never go near a church. For that reason we shall be using it alongside our more traditional images.

Yours truly,  
PAUL HAMILTON,  
St Katherine's Church,  
Edith Road, Canvey Island, Essex,  
September 6.

From Mr Paul Walter

Sir, The "Bad hair day" poster on your front page (September 5) depicted one of the Magi visiting Mary after Christ's birth wearing a crucifix, albeit a stylistically crooked one. I am no theologian, but I thought that the crucifix did not become a symbol of faith until after Christ's crucifixion.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL WALTER,  
12 Stanley Road, Newbury, Berkshire,  
September 6.

## Death on the roads

From Mr Angus Duncan

Sir, Mr Martin Lyth's letter (September 6) seems to imply that road deaths started with the invention of the motor car. Did horses never shy? Did they not bolt? Were those on foot never trampled? Was no carriage ever overturned?

Per journey mile, and perhaps even in absolute terms, the number of deaths must be only a fraction of what it was in the century before 1896.

Yours faithfully,  
A. H. DUNCAN,  
52 Bath Road,  
Ermsworth, Hampshire,  
September 6.

## Romania's future

From the Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Romania

Sir, I am happy to endorse the optimism expressed by my friend Nicolae Ratiu (letter, September 4) about Romania's economic prospects. These are indeed excellent.

However, Mr Ratiu is incorrect in his assertion that President Iliescu, who will be standing for democratic election next November, has ever served as Minister of Propaganda in any Romanian Government. And no local elections were held in Romania last March.

Yours faithfully,  
GHEORGHE DRAGOS,  
Embassy of Romania,  
4 Palace Green, W8,  
September 9.

## Survey of foreign investment in UK

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Small Business, Industry and Energy

Sir, Under a headline "UK loses allure for foreign firms" (Business, September 9) you reported the findings of a survey of 100 senior managers in overseas companies on their future plans for foreign investment.

This survey purports to show that Britain is now in ninth place, where similar surveys in 1994 and 1995 put us at number one. Germany is placed at number five.

It should be made clear that this is merely a forecast. Britain still has an overwhelming lead among EU countries in attracting such investment. We dominate both North American and Far Eastern investment into the EU, with some 40 per cent of the total.

By comparison, figures from the US Department of Commerce recently showed that Germany received less than 14 per cent in 1995. Britain's stock of inward investment is now over £150 billion, two-thirds up on ten years ago, which can be directly translated into jobs and growth.

The many reasons for this — our

competitive labour costs and flexibility, low taxation, advanced skills, regulated utilities, quality research, easy communications, and positive incentives for international business — remain evident to the world's leading multinationals.

Companies make investment decisions over the long-term. Temporary uncertainties such as elections and market fluctuations are taken into account, but Britain's success over the past decade — with expansions by existing investors accounting for more than half of the total each year — suggests a degree of long-term confidence on the part of international business that this survey ignores.

While far from being complacent about the growing competition from other countries, the Government remains confident that we have all the factors in place to ensure the UK a healthy future in the field of inward investment.

Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD PAGE,  
Department of Trade and Industry,  
1 Victoria Street, SW1,  
September 10.

## Animal insights

From Dr Max Prola

Sir, Your reporter's conclusion (September 3) that recent tests with a dog named Jaytee help to prove that "dogs can read human minds" is a bit premature.

Jaytee went to the French windows immediately before his mistress's arrival on 123 occasions. He did not react prior to her arrival on 30 occasions. He was thus judged to have anticipated her arrival correctly 80 per cent of the time and this finding is hailed as evidence of Jaytee's mind-reading prowess.

But we also need to know how often Jaytee's trip to the window was not followed by his mistress's arrival. If Jaytee is a particularly active dog (as terriers often are) he may make dozens of trips.

Some of them inevitably are in advance. They do not indicate the presence of arcane mental powers unless they are significantly more frequent than his trips to the window when she is not about to arrive.

Sincerely,  
MAX PROLA,  
The Croft, Ditchfield Lane,  
High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire,  
September 5.

From Mr M. J. Mitchell

Sir, Your report gives scant credit to the abilities of cats.

I live in a terrace at right-angles to

the road with (until recently) three cats (one has just died). My door is at least 50 yards from the road.

My neighbours have told me that if I am returning on foot the cats (who roam free) start down the passageway long before I appear and if I return by car they have regularly been waiting on the pavement when I arrive.

It has been unusual for me to return home without being greeted by one of them, whatever the weather.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL MITCHELL,  
11 Chestnut Terrace,  
Charlton Kings,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,  
September 5.

From Mr Peter Bennett

Sir, We live near Gatwick airport and frequently large aircraft pass over our house.

A couple of weeks ago we were returning from Greece to Gatwick. My son was at home looking after Jessie, our nine-year-old border collie.

He reported that an hour or so before we arrived the dog had got very excited and let out a long, low howl.

It would seem that Jessie sensed our presence in the air quite close to our home. I hope I am not barking up the wrong tree.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER BENNETT,  
Radwinter, Hurris Hill,  
Crowborough, Sussex,  
September 5.

Helen Reece's view notwithstanding (letter, September 4) — not to be deprived of her mother.

Yours faithfully,  
G. A. WILKINSON,  
St Aidan's House, 172 Herbert Road,  
Small Heath, Birmingham,  
September 5.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

## Digital substitute for church music

From the Editor of Music and Liturgy

Sir, I encountered the "digital hymnal" (report, September 6) at the Christian Resources Exhibition in May. Apparently it can play just hymn tunes, or add the sound of a choir, or, in extreme cases, the sound of a whole congregation. All our problems solved at the press of a button. Would that the real work of the Church could so easily be addressed.

Of course there are places where it is almost impossible to find people to lead music but a machine like this is not the answer. Liturgy is something done by real people really present. There is no substitute for music — of whatever style — provided by living people among other living people for the worship of God.

Even unaccompanied singing, while it might be unsteady to begin with, improves as people hear their own voices and grow in confidence. The Iona Community produces much music for singing unaccompanied, which is increasingly used by Christians of all denominations. It advises: "Believe in the voice which God has given you. It is the voice of an apprentice angel."

What next? Taped sermons? Virtual clergy?

Yours etc.,  
ANTHONY MOYNIHAN,  
Editor, Music and Liturgy,  
The Society of St Gregory,  
33 Brockenhurst Road,  
Addiscombe, Croydon, Surrey,  
September 6.

From Mr Alan Millard

Sir, If digital hymnals replace church organists divine justice will at last have been served.

Church organists in Britain are, in my view, treated like wallpaper and expected to provide an unobtrusive background for those who like to gossip before, during and after services.

At a recent service I attended in Salisbury Cathedral, the first note of the final Bach Prelude and Fugue was nothing more than the starting pistol for a sudden mass exodus.

In Germany services begin with the first organ note and end with the last. All of the organ music in between is integral to the service and everyone listens to every note.

Is it any wonder that British organists are hard to find when most congregations would probably fail to notice if their organist had been replaced with a digital hymnal?

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN MILLARD,  
8 Medina Court,  
Marine Parade West,  
Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire,  
September 6.

From Mrs Rosemary Inge

Sir, My sister and I went to stay with friends in Kenmare, Co. Kerry, in the 1960s and decided to attend the Anglican service.

Unsurprisingly for that predominantly Catholic part of the world, the congregation was not large, but the rector solved the sound problem in an original way — with a jukebox. In instead of a few droning voices rebounding in the near-empty building, we were treated to the glorious sounds of the Bach Choir singing the *Te Deum*.

Yours faithfully,  
ROSEMARY INGE,  
Westmead,  
Bleadney, Wells, Somerset,  
September 6.

## Cleopatra's Needle

From Mr Peter M. Fryer

Sir, You ask (leading article, September 2) whether it is time to save Cleopatra's Needle from the polluted air of London.

This is an interesting question in view of what happened after the obelisk was saved from shipwreck in the Bay of Biscay in 1877, an incident recorded in my late father's book, *A Newcastle Century*.

The salvaging ship was the *Fitzmaurice*, owned by Burrell & Son, who offered to waive the £2,000 salvage award if the Needle was erected in Greenock. Had the offer been accepted, this might have become one of the many gifts of art and antiquities to Glasgow now known as the Burrell Collection.

Whether the Greenock atmosphere would have been any less damaging than that of London's Embankment I cannot say, but Burrell was most certainly aware of the hazards of pollution when he stipulated in the deed of gift that the collection was to be housed several miles from the centre of Glasgow.

Perhaps the trustees of the Burrell Collection would care to renew the offer.

Yours faithfully,  
P. M. FRYER,  
66 Reid Park Road,  
Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne,  
September 5.

From Mr John McGillan

Sir, Does the use of "sister" in your leading article indicate that obelisks are to be regarded as female?

It would be interesting to know when this "landmark" decision was made.

Yours faithfully,  
J. MCGILLAN,  
12 Slieve Banna,  
Coleraine, Co Londonderry,  
September 4.







# BILL MONROE

The six storks which returned to Bembridge 10 days ago after a week's absence and the stork which arrived on Sunday still show no inclination to continue their journey to Africa. Those who have watched their habits daily since the birds first arrived in the Isle of Wight on August 20 are still at a loss to know why they should remain in these parts so long.



